

documentation update



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our note...

Dear Reader,

We are happy to share with you the DocUPDATE for the period July-December 2003. We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the inordinate delay with which this Doc-Update reaches you. We also apologise for not bringing out the doc-update for the period of January to June 2003. We are bringing you a combined issue of Doc-Update this time, covering from July 2003 to December 2003.

The transformation of World Tourism Organisation, WTO-OMT into a new full fledged agency of the United Nations has created inherent challenges for it in linking to UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – integrating strategies on fair trade, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development and giving priority to the interests of the poorest nations. The WTO's Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism tries to encourage the private sector to commit to practicing socially responsible tourism¹. Alleviating poverty by supporting community initiatives and creating ST-EP (Sustainable Tourism – Elimination of Poverty) with much fanfare at WSSD (World Summit on sustainable development) is yet another initiative of WTO-OMT. These developments seems to be much smoke and little fire, with United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) sources revealing that STEP was an idea of WTO-OMT that is in a total stand still².

The World Trade Organisation (WTO-OMC) set up to legally enforce commercial rules for international trade in Goods,

Agriculture, Intellectual Property, and Services like health, water, education and tourism. The Fifth Ministerial of WTO at Cancun saw a dramatic collapse bringing into relief its deep institutional crisis. The skewed nature of the process despite the “democratic” nature of the WTO was evident with the delegations from EU and US (representing 10% of the world population) having a combined strength of 863. This was three times the total of 235 for the four biggest Southern countries (51%). The General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) cover more or less all the essential public and private services supplied and consumed by society. The right to essential services is inalienable to all citizens. Further equity, justice, and dignity in the delivery of essential services are integral for long-term societal stability and equality.³

Despite opposition from Indigenous Rights Groups and Civil Society Organizations, the Tourism Guidelines that focus on vulnerable ecosystems and ancestral territory of indigenous people for ecotourism was passed at the Seventh Conference of the Parties (COP 7) in Kuala Lumpur to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This calls for monitoring tourism impacts that may arise from the implementation of CBD tourism guidelines in culturally and ecologically vulnerable areas.⁴

The 5th IUCN (World Conservation Union) World Parks Congress was held in September 2003 in South Africa. It came out with set of recommendations on the importance of engaging with the broad array of people who reside near and around protected areas to

ensure that their interests and needs are understood and considered in the management of these areas.

In environmentally sensitive as well as fragile eco regions such as Andaman and Nicobar Island, ten new areas have been identified for intensive development of tourism promotion – this includes beaches on remote, uninhabited islands and even entire islands.⁵ While tourism department is engaged with aggressive promotion, it is also beginning to recognise conservation and community participation. In consonance with these, responsible tourism guidelines are in the pipeline. The National Commission for Women Chairperson, Dr. Poornima Advani has called for an end to the tendency of tourism promotion through sex. She said that many have a notion that tourism will flourish if it takes a cue from places like Colombo where sex has been a main attraction.⁶ Lack of community participation, disregard for gender and child rights concerns are the major flaw in the national tourism policy. Mr. Amitabh Kant, Joint Secretary, Department of Tourism has said that the strategy adopted for the North-East region of India is to focus on conservation, preservation, and a community oriented tourism.⁷

In tune with the overall neo-liberal economic policies that are currently being pursued by the Government of India, the tourism department is also trying to adopt disinvestments policy as the latest alternative. Additionally, new schemes like tourist visa on arrivals have been introduced. Concurrently, it completely ignores the impacts of GATS on tourism. The National Tourism Policy seeks to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth. Giving away the bilateral rights to private airlines by allowing them to land in neighboring countries, privatization of airport management has taken place.

In this election year, the budgetary allocation for tourism has been raised from Rs225 crore to Rs375 crore from the previous year.

Liberal civil aviation policy and putting tourism in the concurrent list of Constitution; the expenditure tax levied by the Central government has been removed with effect from 1 June 2003. The government has allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the hospitality sector. The government has also initiated the process of change in labour laws by approving simplification of procedures under the laws for Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

Apart from these important reforms, the department of tourism announced the 'Incredible India campaign'; government claims that this caused much of the change due to India's high profile in the international media and press. In the air, the government has declared an Open Skies policy. Under this, all international airlines, including those from the Gulf region, will be allowed to operate additional flights into the country from December 2003 till February 2004.

Cultural attitudes within India are changing. The idea of an annual family holiday/pilgrimage to the home village is being overtaken by more frequent weekend visits to leisure facilities within and around the cities. The amusement park industry is just getting its feet wet in India. New projects are coming with fresh investments including foreign investments in this sector. Around 400 amusement parks are expected to be operational by 2005.

India's booming BPO industry posed significant growth in their travel and helped tourism industry with significant growth. The corporate travel in India is growing 15-20% per annum. Thus, There has been a flat corporate travel growth in 2003.

Karnataka has set its eyes on Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada district to attract investment. The state government organized a Coastal Investors Meet, which was held in Karwar. The Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for the Hampi heritage tourism

project. Simultaneously, the Archaeological Survey of India is also putting in funds to refurbish the monument of this world heritage site. The state is also planning to promote medical tourism with eying Bangalore's largest number of cardiac hospitals. Some of this has already started happening. The public face of this medical tourism is the Pakistani kid being operated in Bangalore.

The Kerala cabinet has given approval for a new industrial policy, which also provides industry status to tourism. The department also proposed special tourism zones. The government would shortly promulgate the Kerala tourism conservation, preservation and trade ordinance notifying the special tourism zones and constituting a tourism conservation and preservation panel. The fifth report of the Kerala Legislative Estimates Committee has recommended for starting Eco-Tourism projects in 56 forest areas. The department has handed over the land to six big hotel chains in Bekal Special Tourism Area. The government is willing to assist large revenue generating initiatives by the private sector.

Tamil Nadu is acting on a seven-point action plan announced by chief minister in the occasion of SKAL(full form please) congress was held in Chennai, to position the state as an international tourist destination in Asia and Pacific region. The Tamil Nadu government is linking its economic development to tourism promotion. This focus is based on the understanding that tourism can go hand in hand with other industries in Tamil Nadu which has multi-faced heritage, culture, pilgrimage, health, entertainment and conference destinations.

Goa continues to be projected as an "all season destination". The Goa Industrial Policy of 2003 states that thrust will be given to develop Ecotourism, Heritage tourism, Adventure tourism, Event tourism and Medical tourism. The tourism industry contributes over one third (33%) towards the State's Domestic Product and absorbs more

than half of the work force. Goa witnessed the highest ever tourist inflow at 20 lakh this year (2003) as against 16 lakh last year (2002), recording an increase of 25 per cent. There was an effort from the government that for the first time in the history of tourism in the state, which a full train was chartered to carry tourists from Gujarat. The state tourism board has allocated an Rs30 crore marketing budget for 2003. Activists and groups have struggled against the impacts of mass tourism in the tiny state for the last two decades and have brought many aspects of exploitation in tourism to the forefront. As a result of this sustained activism, the state government introduced the Goa Children's Act, 2003, the first of its kind in India. The legislation places responsibility on tourism establishments, which will be held solely responsible for the safety of the child within the premises as well as all adjoining beaches, parks.

The Central ministry of tourism is coming up with the northeastern states for promoting tourism in the region. The Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, announced a slew of measures for development of infrastructure and human resource in Nagaland, the centre would provide Rs. 520 crore to the state within the next two to three years. The centre would work together with the state government to create 25,000 jobs in the areas of tourism, agro-based industry, village industry and horticulture.

In Arunachal Pradesh the State Government had submitted an Rs 12-crore scheme to the Centre for tourism development, with emphasis on eco-tourism and adventure tourism. The North-Eastern Council has also just set up a Regional Tourism Board for developing tourism.

India Tourism Development Company, an arm of Sahara India Parivar, an agreement with West Bengal government to make Sunderban a global destination for tourists. Sahara India will pump in Rs 500 crore into its "Floating City" project. The MoU for this project had been signed.

The Gujarat government announced state's Tourism Policy 2003-10 received good response from the hospitality industry. Another Rs 2,500 crore worth of MoUs was sign (largely with NRIs for tourism projects) in the 'Vibrant Gujarat' global investors' summit. The state is also proposing the permission to serve liquor freely and other tax consultants.

The Uttaranjal State Government has announced major financial incentives to all those interested in investing in the tourism sector. Apart from giving a cent-percent waiver in income tax, entertainment tax, excise tax and luxury tax, the Government has roped in top private planners and consultants to develop tourism infrastructure in the state. The state witnessed a 10 % increase in the tourism flow in the last year.

It seems as though tourism is being replanned to give itself a new dimension. We in EQUATIONS are trying to analyse the trends and debates that are emerging from

the tourism and related development area. This edition covers material from Newspapers, Weekly, Magazines, Journals and Books. While compiling this edition, we have also looked at information available on the web and that we receive through list serves via e-mail. The selected information is indicative of trends in tourism development, especially in India. Issues are presented under headings based on the sections in our classification code. Apart from tourism issues, some sections deal with issues related to development in general.

At this point, the team would like to acknowledge the contribution of Ms. Nina Rao, Delhi, Bailancho Saad, Goa, CAG (Citizen, Consumer and Civic Action Group), Chennai for providing us with regional news clippings and statewide reports to understand, analyse trends at the state level and to engage with debates. We request feedback from our readers about this document, its information and features you would like to share with us.

EQUATIONS Team

¹ WTO news 4th quarter 2003 issue 4

² Rane Scharer, Instituto terrmar, Brazil, email dt Feb 25,04

³ We won! Cancun, EQUATIONS, November 2003

⁴ **tim-team clearing house** : Outcry over CBD tourism guidelines

⁵ **Troubled Islands**, Pankaj Sekhsaria

⁶ **Warning against tourism promotion through sex**, The New Indian Express, Thiruvananthapuram dated 30.09.2003

⁷ **Branding India**, Business India, 1-14, Mar 2004

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A. Tourism and Tourism Alternatives

A00 Tourism, Travel (General)

Indian holidaymakers seem to have come of age. Not only more and more Indians looking at going abroad for a holiday, they are also looking out for an experiential one.

According to a recent survey conducted by Resorts Condominium International (RCI) on the holiday trends in India, Indians are looking for activity-based holidays.

The survey also revealed that buying timeshare holidays is fast catching up among high-flying corporate. "In a major shift from what was viewed as a holiday product only for the middle-income group, vacation ownership is now also sought by CEOs of multinational companies, large local corporate and business entrepreneurs who want to take international exchanges with their families at least twice a year. The new class of vacation owners prefers exotic destinations away from hectic urban routines," said Ms Shastry.

Yet another trend pointed out by the survey was that women played an important role in both purchase of timeshares as well as

planning holidays for the family. (*Holidaymakers get busy with activity-packed vacations, Ajita Shashidhar, BL.B, 14/10/03, A00*)

A10 Tourism and Development

Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KS-TDC) has decided to privatize four of its hotels on a long-term basis.

According to a press release from KSTDC Chairperson Manorama Madhwaraj, the hotels, which the corporation will hand over to private managements, include Hotel Mayura Bahumani, Garbage; Hotel Mayura, Bidar; Hotel Mayura Netravathi, Mangalore and Hotel Mayura, Malpe. These hotels will be handed over to private managements on a long-term basis of about 25 to 30 years.

The Tourism Department has also made arrangements to complete the floodlight facilities at places of tourist interests in coastal areas, at Chitradurga fort, and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace in Srirangapatna by January next. (*Four KSTDC hotels to be privatized, DH.B, 20/10/03, A 10*)

B. Tourism Policy and Tourism Development

B00 Tourism Policy and Plans

Tourism in India picking up with arrivals clocking a growth of 14.2 % in January-February this year. Foreign exchange earnings too logged double-digit growth at 15%, Union Tourism Secretary Rathi Vinay Jha said. This is the first time that SKAL is coming to India at a time when the country's tourism is poised for growth. Such events draw world attention to India. It is believed that the country, which hosts

SKAL, witnesses a 20% to 25% growth in tourism.

The government of India has sponsored Rs 1 crore towards conference arrangements and other states like Kerala, Pondicherry, Goa, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh are also involved in the gala event. While individual states are gearing up to get their act together on the tourism front, the Centre is also doing its bit to market the 'Incredible India' brand abroad. The Centre will spend

Rs 14 crore on marketing the brand abroad this year. Last year, it spent close to Rs 10 crore. (*Tourism set for a leap in 'Incredible India, E.T.C, 30/9/03, B00*)

The domestic tourism industry has suggested the creation of an India Promotion Fund, which will essentially benefit the upper-end segment of hoteliers, as it will be meant to attract foreign tourists. But while one section of the industry has suggested a levy of 3 per cent tax on room rent of hotels to create the fund, the other section has demanded a more equitable distribution with government participation.

In 2000, the Tourism Ministry had proposed "Tourism Development Fund" to promote tourism. The Department of Tourism was proposed to provide the initial corpus. 'But the idea of setting up of Tourism Development Fund has been dropped as it was felt that critical infrastructure development can be made through budgetary support of the department and a Separate fund would not be necessary for this. (*Tourism Industry Pitches For India Promotion Fund, Rajeev Jayaswal, FE.B, 18/9/03, B00*).

B01 – Special Tourism Areas

Orissa's best brand name in the field of tourism, Puri may soon acquire a dubious distinction of being one of the most sea polluting towns of the country, the hotels are equally disastrous waste discharge systems. When Puri administration conducted an inspection of the hotels their findings were quite shocking. Nearly 35 hotels have come up on the beach violating Coastal Regulation Zone norms and others flushed the sewerage directly into the sea instead of the extra residual water. The hotels over there rarely treated the wastewater. The Orissa Pollution Control Board of the seawater had found the biological oxygen demand an indicator of how habitable the water is for harmful microorganisms to be 110. ((*Puri tourism at stake as hotels pose threat to sea, AA.B, 19/11/03, B01*))

B 30 – ITDC

The Central government has decided to disinvest its shares in the ITDC owned Janpath Hotel in New Delhi, Tourism Sec-retary Rathy Vinay Jha said. Center would also privatize the Asokha and Samrat hotels, run by the ITDC in New Delhi.

(*Center to disinvest three ITDC hotels IE. D, 1/10/03, B 30*)

Hong Kong-based hotel chain Shangri-La has tied up with Eros Group to re-brand former India Tourism Development Corporation's (ITDC) 354 room five star property Hotel Kanishka now as Shangri-La Hotel New Delhi. Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts is the trade name of Shangri-La Asia, a listed company in Hong Kong stock exchange pro-moted by a Malaysian family concern, Kuok Group. (*Shangri-La-Eros Group Tie-up To Rebrand ITDC Property, FE.D, 23/10/03, B30*).

The Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is all set to register a positive growth this fiscal financial year. During the first six months of this fiscal, ITDC registered a 20 per cent increase in the total turnover which touched Rs 140 crore from Rs 116 crore registered in the same period last year. The major growth area this year has been the Ashok International Trade Division, which deals with duty free shop. In the last six months (April-October 2003), the division's turnover was Rs 56 crore as compared to Rs 44 crore during the same period time previous year. ITDC has now set a target of Rs 125 crore for its duty-free outlets during 2003-04. The turnover of the duty-free division stood at Rs 94 crore during 2002-03, registering a growth of 32% over the previous year's turnover of Rs 71 crore.

The Ashok Tour Travel is also entering into a strategic alliance with Travel Services International (TSI) to focus aggressively on the international market. Ashok Tour & Travel has increased its turnover by Rs 7 crore in the last six months as compared to

last year. (ITDC in recovery mode, plans VRS, ET.B, 23/11/03, B 30)

B 40 Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements

India has stressed the importance of establishing rail links and improving the road network with Nepal to boost bilateral tourism even as tour operators have sought more direct flights between the two countries.

Addressing a half yearly general meeting of the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN), India's ambassador Shyam Saran said the two countries are looking at establishing rail links and upgrading the road network connecting them to boost tourism.

"With a view to promoting cross-border traffic, our two governments are also looking at an extension of Indian railway lines into Nepal," Saran said. Most north Indian cities have a large middle class population, with enough income to afford holidays during the summer when they want to avoid scorching heat, he said.

Participants at the meeting expressed the view that private airlines should provide direct Air links between Nepalese and Indian cities to boost tourism. (India Keen To Boost Tourism With Nepal, FE.B, 27/10/03 B 40)

C. Tourism Economy, Indian Economy

C 00 Tourism Economy and Tourism Infrastructure

The Indian tourism and hospitality industry is virtually euphoric and it has every reason to celebrate. Since it is not just the big hotels, airlines, and travel companies, which are hearing their cash registers ring, but a host of ancillary service providers like the local masseurs on Goan beaches, Indian designers and handicraft makers, tour guides in Agra and Hampi, car rental operators, restaurants, service apartment developers and even roadside eatery owners, who are grinning from ear to ear. In fact, experts say that depending on the budget, between 15 and 30% of tourist spend is towards the ancillary services.

Going by the trends including rising tourist spends, the tourism industry in India is tipped to become an almost \$4 billion (or around Rs 18,000 crore) business by the end of the current fiscal, up 30% over last year's \$3 billion. In spite of SARS and Iraq war. But then the global tourism industry is reported to have grown to \$4.6 trillion this year

While some industry leaders, like Kuoni Asia chairman Ranjit Malkani, argue that at least 70% of the visitors to India come on business and cannot be placed in the conventional holiday-maker or tourist slot, they admit that at the end of the day these people also contribute to the Indian tourism coffers. They stay in the best of hotels, travel within the country to fulfill their business commitments, shop around more often for ethnic handicrafts, hire cars to commute within a given destination. All of which definitely helps in giving a leg-up to the industry. Domestic airlines like Jet Airways and Air Sahara have already said that a 2-4% increase in carriage is happening this year.

The growth target of bigger players in this business is a clear indication of which way it is headed. Swiss travel giant Kuoni is betting on a 50% rise in outbound travel next year. In 10 years, it expects a ten-fold jump in the number of domestic travelers (at present pegged at 200 million pilgrims). This year, some four million people are said to be traveling abroad.

Goa and Kerala are practically on fire, according to Ashwini Kakkar, CEO of

people flying increasing, the decision to allow an international airline to pick up a 49 per cent stake in a domestic airline could be detrimental to the interest of domestic aviation,” industry leaders opined

(Domestic airlines, worried over panel decision on FDI, Ashwini Phadnis, BL.B, 9/12/03 C24)

Indian hoteliers, travel agents and tour operators are celebrating, Prime Minister A B Vajpayee proposal for an “open skies” agreement with Asean countries as this is expected to lead to a significant boost to the tourism industry. As flights linking Asean nations increase once the pact comes into effect, fares are expected to decline on account of intense competition.

New players like Garuda of Indonesia would be encouraged to enter the Indian market while existing players like Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Thai Airways, Malaysian Airlines, and Korean would be in a position to increase frequency.

Low cost carriers from the Asean region would also explore the Indian market now, tourism industry sources feel. Both inbound as well as outbound tourism to the Asean

region will expand, is the current expectation.

Airlines based in Asean countries are obviously upbeat at the prospect to expanding operations in India. Singapore has concluded liberal air services agreements with Sri Lanka and Australia. The pact with Lanka allows “open skies” for cargo and a liberal flexibility on the passenger side with further scope for improvement.

The agreement with Australia allows unlimited number of flights between any points in Australia to Singapore. The pact also enables SIA to launch a domestic airline in Australia. With smaller nations like Sri Lanka and Singapore going in for liberal policies along with developed countries like Australia, the entire region is likely to witness opening up of the skies sooner than later. The US and the European Union, two major markets, are already negotiating “open skies” across the Atlantic.

Mr Shyam Suri, the secretary general of the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI), said the

Indo ASEAN free trade pact: Ground still to be covered

India's Merchandise Trade With ASEAN Countries	Amount (US \$ million)			
	Exports		Imports	
Country	1995	2001	1995	2001
Indonesia	501	515	384	1261
Malaysia	355	702	770	1735
Philippines	122	216	15	78
Singapore	807	1017	966	3018
Thailand	461	612	146	530
Vietnam	97	178	15	57
Myanmar	21	67	160	316
Asean (7)	2364	3307	2456	6995
Total	30630	43437	34707	49941

Source: Direction of Trade Statistics, IMF

India: Approved FDI Inflows From ASEAN Countries				
Amount (US \$ Million)				
Country	1991-95	1996-00	2001	2002
Malaysia	519.4	1058.9	22.0	77.6
Singapore	481.4	777.3	78.8	77.5
Thailand	816.5	30.5	0.3	0.0
Indonesia	109.7	20.6	0.0	26.3
Philippines	33.1	81.6	0.4	0.0
Asean	1960.1	1968.9	101.5	181.4
Total	20695.5	47613.7	5578.0	2319.3

Source: Asher and Srivastava (2003) (FE.B, 13/10/03)

prime minister's proposal was a significant step towards liberalisation of the aviation industry. Besides improving inbound tourism, it will also boost outbound tourism. The government should also adopt similar policy for European and American carriers too. Out of tourist arrivals into India, 10% are from Asean countries while 40% are from the US and Europe. (*Garuda To Enter India While Existing Airlines Can Up Frequency Open skies to boost tourism, Ardeep Sengal & G.Ganapathy Subramanian, ET.B, 10/10/2003, C24*)

C 30 Tourism Industry

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has recommended that the Department of Tourism take up the matter of having a single window clearance system for tourism projects with all the State and Union Territories.

The committee's report, which was tabled in Parliament, also recommends that the Department of Tourism should pursue with the States the need to rationalise the different taxes and provide incentives for the hotel industry.

The committee said, would not only boost the industry but also help generate more tourist arrivals. It also appreciated the measures announced by the Government in the Budget towards rationalizing taxes levied by the Centre and State Governments, although the States have not

yet taken any decision on this issue. (*House panel moots 'single window for tourism projects, BL.B, 5/12/2003, C 30/*)

World tourism battered by terrorist-inspired fears of flying, the war in Iraq and the outbreak of the Sars epidemic, may be on the verge of a recovery, industry professionals say. In Singapore there are now "encouraging signs" that tourist arrivals will reach their pre-Sars level early next year, according to the head of the state tourism office Lim Neo Chian.

Already, he said, arrivals are about 75% of what they were before appearance of Sars. Hotels were 60% full in June; after 35% in May. Mr Anthony Chan, director of one of Singapore's largest tourist agencies, said flights to Hong Kong and Bangkok were now full as the lure of foreign travel revives after an interval of several months.

In Australia, where tourist arrivals in June were down 20.9% compared with the same month last year, there was nonetheless an increase in the number of visitors from New Zealand, Germany and the US. Short-term stays were up 7% over May. Thailand, south-east Asia's leading tourist destination, has seen a decline of 11 % in visitors this year but expects an increase of 6% in 2004, according to Tourism and Sports Minister Sonthaya Khumpleum. (*World tourism sees signs of revival ETB, /28/07/2003.C30*).

Mr. Frederick Divercha Senior Vice President, SOTC told, "The Indian outbound tourism market is one of the fastest growing. Indians traveling abroad spent Rs. 7,000 crores in 1999 and this is expected to grow to Rs. 19,200 crores by 2004." In the recent past, the outbound tourism market saw a growth of 12 per cent and it is projected that about ten million Indians will be outbound travellers by 2004.

Mr. Sunil Gupta, Leisure, Thomas Cook India told "The Government is also waking up to the importance of heritage structures and the tourism ministry has a new approach which is paying off. (Tourism/Feel Good Factor, Signs of return to good times, Ramnath Subbu, *TH.D*, 30/11/12, C 30)

Taj Garden Retreat at Kumarakom in Kerala plans to add 12 new luxury villas to their inventory of the existing 22 rooms, including rooms in cottages and houseboats, at an investment of around Rs 2-3 crore. Taj Garden Retreat is part of the Taj luxury hotels.

An official from Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) told that the move to add villas comes in the wake of surge in demand for the destination (Kumarakom), both from the over seas as well as domestic market especially from the free individual traveller segment.

According to the IHCL annual report 2002-2003, these renovations are part of the company's initiative to enhance brand visibility. The report also says that the renovation and repositioning of properties has been contributing to the revenues and market share in addition to the profile of the brand. (*Taj Garden Retreat To Add 12 Luxury Villas At Kumarakom, Candida Moraes, FE.B*, 19/11/03, C30)

The Indian hotel industry is getting back on the global tourist map with a bang, even though the current calendar year has been a bad one for the tourism industry. In the calendar year 2003, the demand for hotel rooms nights improving across all-star

categories. This strong rebound in hotel occupancy comes after two years of downturn witnessed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Surprisingly it is the five-star deluxe category that has witnessed a growth of 13.6 per cent followed by five stars at 10.9 per cent.

Current indications are that this year, Bangalore may outperform both Mumbai and Delhi in terms of highest average rates in the country. In fact this is a major improvement compared to five years ago when Bangalore was ranked a poor fifth in terms of average rates.

In 2002-03, a double-digit growth in occupancy was witnessed in Mumbai (21.9%), Delhi (13.3%), Goa (12.9%) and Bangalore (12.0%). While Chennai (3.2%), Hyderabad (1.3%) and Ahmedabad (1.1%), showed modest gains.

Both the leisure destinations Agra and Jaipur had a decline in occupancy of 8.9% and 7.0% respectively. 'The only metro city to witness a decline in terms of occupancy was Kolkata – this was due to an oversupply of hotel Rooms. The study anticipates that in a few years the number of branded three star hotels will far exceed those in the luxury market, as has been the case in markets in the US and Europe. For the first time, the NCR has overtaken Mumbai, in terms of the number of new hotels slated to become operational in the next few years. Thirteen hotels are in various stages of planning development in the NCR of which properties are expected to be located in Gurgaon. (*Hospitality sees strong rebounded, Raja Awasthi, ET.B*, 21/11/03, C 30)

In Chennai tourist arrivals to the city registering a steady upward rise since October, hotels and airlines are looking forward to a robust season ahead.

The earliest indications are already seen in the city's hotels – both five-star and business class which report an average occupancy rate of 70%. Both the ITC properties-Park Sheraton and Chola Sheraton-show 68 percent each, while Hotel Ambassador

Pallava reports 70%. While Taj Connemara shows a very healthy 72%, Taj Connemara follows at 69 %.

In hotels meant mainly for business tourists like the GRT Grand Days, the occupancy is as high as 86%, according to M O Koshy, its vice-president. The figures at the beach side properties are equally impressive both Sterling Mahabalipuram and the Taj-owned Fisher man's Cove show 80 % occupancy each.

Where 46,35,278 domestic and 3,10,198 foreign tourists, landed up at Chennai for the whole of last year, this year even, the January-September season has recorded 38.53,472 and 2,35,670 tourists respectively. The total figures this year-conservative industry estimates project a 14 to 15 percent increase-are expected to far exceed those of last year.

In November last year, Chennai and Tiruchirappalli together received 24,000 tourists. This year's figures stand at 26,000. *(Arrivals good so far; City set for a healthy tourist season, Most hotels-both five star and business class-report an average occupancy rate of at least 70 percent, Vani Doraisamy & Joji Thomas Philip, IE.C, 3/12/03, C 30)*

The Bangalore hospitality industry is on a roll. For the second month in the running in November, the Average Room Tariff (ART) report card shows its star hotels ahead of Mumbai, the traditional numero uno in this business. Mumbai continues to enjoy the position of the financial capital of India and the biggest international gateway to the country, which virtually gives it first access to the crème-de-la-crème among the international as well as domestic corporates.

However, riding the BPO and call centre wave and complemented by the surge in other businesses, Bangalore has experienced a sharp rise in demand this year. This in turn has offered hotels the enviable opportunity to demand top dollar for its rooms, and get it, since the city only has a compact supply of star hotel rooms,

around 1,700, compared to 4,200 plus in Mumbai.

Trade sources say the ART chart buster for November is Bangalore's Leela Kempinski at Rs 8,340 and an occupancy of 87%, giving it a significant lead over The Oberoi, Mumbai, which is relegated to the second position at an Average Room Rate (ARR) of about Rs 7,000 and an occupancy level under 60%. Incidentally, the ARR of Rs 8,340 is possibly the highest for any hotel this year. The next in line in this race is Taj West end, also from Bangalore, at an ARR of Rs 6,800 and occupancy close to 70%. The West end, it appears, has recorded the best ARR among all Taj luxury properties in the country. The Oberoi in Bangalore is just behind the Taj hotel with an average of about Rs 6,720. The hotel has the disadvantage of blocking close to 20 rooms for airline crew at a lower room rent, which tends to bring its total ARR down. The Oberoi Mumbai's ARR has slipped marginally from September this year. It was at around Rs 7,600 in September, Rs 7,200 in October and now Rs 7,000. *(Leela Palace has arrived ahead of Oberoi Mumbai, Girish Rao, ET.B, 9/12/03, C30.)*

The Sahara Group is eyeing its second major tourism project in West Bengal after the Sunderbans. The Rs 32,000 crore group is planning to take up a River Teesta development project in north Bengal that will also make the north-eastern states more accessible to tourists. Sahara has already submitted a proposal to the West Bengal government. The Teesta development project is expected to create a transit link and has the potential to lure international tourists, according to Sahara officials.

A top Sahara official said that, the company is expecting a green signal from the state government who will be the company's partner in the project. "Buddhism Will attract a lot of international tourists to the region and our own helicopter service, bus service and hotels will take care of all the needs of a tourist. The project will also take tourists to the neighboring countries of

Bhutan and Myanmar,” the Sahara official said. The company; however, is yet to work out the investments it will have to fork out for the project. Meanwhile, work on Sahara’s Sunderbans project is expected to begin in the second half of 2004. The company plans to complete the 840-acre land acquisition from the state government by March 2004. “We hope to begin the first phase of work next year which will be on the development of boating in the region,” the Sahara official said. (*Sahara Plans 2nd Tourism Project In West Bengal /FE. D, 17/12/2003, C30*)

C 41 Labour Policy

The government has initiated the process of change in labour laws by approving simplification of procedures under the laws for Special Economic Zones (SEZs). This will facilitate job-creation on a fixed term basis without compromising social security, labour minister Sahib Singh Verma said.

The changes intended in SEZs include exemptions from payment of statutory dues such as contribution to the employee’s provident fund and employees state insurance for a five-year period. Mr. Singh said, adding that the exemptions have already come into effect and Gujarat has become the first state to implement them.

State governments are the drivers in developing SEZs with a view to increase exports several states had petitioned the Centre seeking relaxation in labour norms for setting up these zones. Among the major units expected to gain from the move include the Positra SEZ, promoted by Sea King Infrastructure in Gujarat.

The government has taken an in-principle decision to allow fixed term labour contracts. The amendment to the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, is also ready, the minister added. (*Change In Labour Laws Initiated, , FE.B, 7/11/03, C 41*)

D. Tourism Promotion and Types of Tourism

D 00 Tourism Volumes and Patterns

India, for the first time, has entered the top ten tourist destinations of the world, according to the latest research by Conde Nast UK Readers’ Travel Awards. In its latest issue, Europe’s biggest travel magazine, Conde Nast Traveller lists India at the number 9 spot, with the top three slots going to Italy, Australia and France.

While Agra’s Taj Mahal has been the legendary motif for the country’s tourism industry, newer attractions such as Kerala’s promos for Ayurvedic health resorts, Maharashtra’s grand karmic cleansing at the Kumbh Mela, historical Buddhist finds in several other states and, of course, the Goan beaches are sure-fire tourist magnets today.

Going by latest trends, tourism trade watchers are hopeful that India will break the jinx of just 2.5 million foreign tourists a year. During January to August, tourist arrivals increased by 14.2 per cent as compared to last year, totaling 16.74 lakh arrivals. (*India among top 10 tourist destinations, IE.C, 30/9/03, D 00*),

The ministry of tourism intends to set up a Rs 500- crore Tourism Development Fund (TDF). Other ministry proposals pertain to a liberal civil aviation policy and putting tourism in the concurrent list of Constitution for better coordination between the Centre and states.

The tourism development fund proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission. Once approved by Planning Commission,

the fund proposal will go to the Union Cabinet.

Half of the fund would be utilised for bridging minor gaps in infrastructure at local level. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had earlier announced the setting up of the tourism development fund. The ministry informed at the quarterly performance review meeting on the ministry of tourism under planning commission, was confident of spending Rs 325 crore plan fund for the current fiscal. Planning commission deputy Chairman K.C.Pant urged the tourism ministry to study the impact of its schemes on employment.

While a majority of states are favorably inclined to incorporating tourism in the concurrent list, seven states are opposed to the move.

The seven states are Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. At the quarterly performance review meeting, the Planning Commission directed the ministry of tourism to prepare model legislation for states, based on international experience, so that a consensus could be evolved on the issue.

At present, tourism does not figure in any of the three lists of the Constitution – namely, Central, state and concurrent.

The tourism ministry suggested a liberal civil aviation policy, in which foreign airlines could be given a consistent policy for three to five years for flights during the October-February season.

The ministry also wants the current state level taxes on aviation turbine fuel to be replaced by a Central sales tax.

At the quarterly performance review meeting it was mentioned that Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and the Northeastern states are lacking in efforts to promote tourism. (*Rs. 500-cr Fund Likely For Tourism Promotion, FE. D, 25/09/2003, D*)

The domestic tourism is poised to become a \$80 billion industry by 2007, according to a McKinsey report.

Indian travel and tourism, which has grown rapidly at 20 per cent CAGR over 1997-2002 to become a \$32 billion industry has the potential to touch the \$80 billion mark in the next four years, the global strategic man-agement consulting firm said.

The report pointed out that the share of tourism in India's Gross Domestic Produce (GDP) is very low at 5.2 per cent compared to other countries. This is due to its low per capita income, which leads to a low proportion of its GDP being spent on domestic travel or outbound travel. Despite this, it registered a notable growth on the back of increasing domestic travel and outbound tourism.

Highlighting the drivers of future growth, the McKinsey study said both domestic travel (23 per cent CAGR) as well as outbound travel (25 per cent) have grown significantly over the past three to five years, as the Indians have started traveling more, especially to Southeast Asian countries, driven by the devaluation in their currencies.

To cater to the increased demand, especially for domestic tourists, the accommodation sector has seen a large capacity addition in the past five years. The sector has grown at 18.4 per cent CAGR despite a fall in average room rentals. (*Tourism industry likely to touch \$80 billion by 2007: McKinsey, D00.*)

The Russian leisure travelers to India appear to be going through a major image makeover according to Mr Himmat Anand, the chief operating officer of Kuoni's inbound travel arm, SITA.

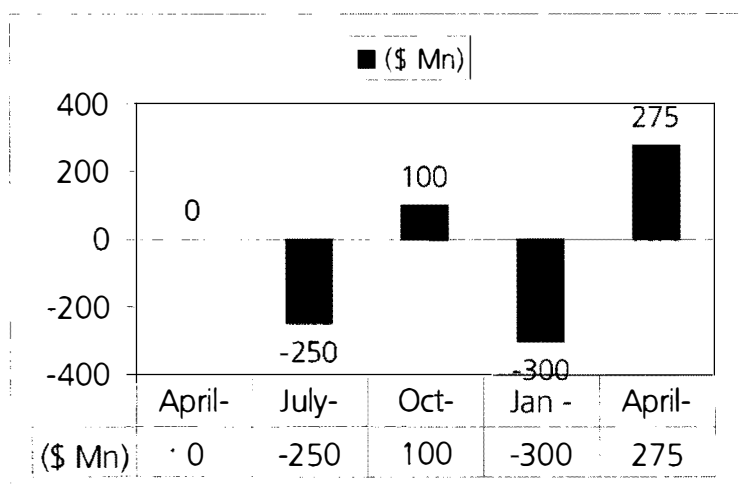
The Russians are paying upfront and largely patronise good four and five star hotels. SITA is operating around 250-270 charters back to back from this October to end March 2003 into Goa, most of them from Russia, though there are some from

other parts of Europe, primarily UK. While the holiday makers on these charter flights are beach-oriented and do not want to move around much, a fourth of them are ready to step out to Kerala. Some participate in short three-day trips to Karnataka by bus, though most of them prefer Kerala because of its backwaters, ayurveda and beaches again.

This year, SITA is also bringing in some 20 charters with 4,400 travelers over a five-month period beginning this October

pay top dollars, Girish Rao, ET.D03/09/2003, D00)

India recorded a strong surplus in tourism earnings after many quarters. According to the latest balance of payments figures, net tourism earnings amounted to \$247m in April-June '03. This has been the highest since January '02. In January-March '02, net earnings were \$316m. However, net tourism earnings during most parts of last year were negative, with spending by outbound tourists higher than income on



Quarterly trend in Net Tourism Earnings (*Travelogue/ET. D, 8/10/03, D00*)

to Kovalam. Mr Anand said they are also getting tourist groups into the Ujjain, Khajuraho, Agra and Bhopal circuit. Ujjain will soon come on board for the first time with SITA for Samistha, a Khumb Mela style festival in which foreigners as well as NRI holidaymakers can participate and experience central Indian heritage. At least 50 air-conditioned tents housing a couple for two days each will be set up for a 30-day period in Ujjain under this programme.

SITA has also tied up with Mumbai-based Vedic India, a health management tourism company (which has signed up Apollo and Wockhardt), for tapping the vast NRI audience in the west. SITA proposes to provide the backend support, which includes the travel arrangements from Europe or US into India, the pre- and post-treatment stay (if necessary) in a hotel, a holiday for the patient's family if they seek one. (*Changing times: Russian leisure travellers*

account of inbound traffic. In the latest quarter, earnings on account of inbound traffic amounted to \$754m, while the outgo was \$507m. The weak dollar does not seem to have had any significant impact on the international traveller in the region, where the domestic currency is appreciating against the dollar, which means they get less for their money.

Despite India emerging as a 'must see' tourist destination in recent years, the country is not yet among the most competitive tourist destinations in the world, according to World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) survey. The council has released a 'Travel and tourism competitiveness monitor', intended to serve as an indicator of the extent to which a country offers a competitive environment. The data is grouped into eight categories such as price competitiveness, openness,

infrastructure, technology, human resources, and social development.

India is still among the 15 most competitive nations. An area of possible concern for tourism policymakers and industry players is the country's performance in creating an open and liberal framework for the travel and tourism industry. This facet of the monitor, which considers areas such as visa requirements, trade openness, taxes on international trade and so on, puts Luxembourg, Maldives and Aruba right on top, while India comes at 142. Similarly, in areas related to human resources and the impact of tourism on human development, the country's performance is a cause for concern.

(India not yet among most competitive tourist destinations, Sankar Radhakrishnan, B.L.B, 12/11/03, D00)

Foreign tourists are heading to India with a renewed interest, inbound tourism is booming with most flights to India already sold out. Up to September "foreign tourist arrivals to India had increased by 14.5%, and in September alone arrivals grew by over 16%. Along with this, India's foreign exchange earnings from tourists have also shown a 20% jump (up to September) over corresponding period last year. Amitabh Kant, joint secretary in the ministry of tourism and culture, estimates at least 20% J, growth in number of foreign tourist coming to India this year and a substantial 25% increase in foreign exchange earnings.

The number of foreign tourists coming into India fell for 13-months in a row after the 9/11 attacks, in 2001 and 2002, foreign tourist arrivals declined, by 4% and 7%. The inbound tourists to India started reviving only from October last year, and from June onwards this year the momentum has further building up. The highest growth this year was seen in June at a significant 27.5% the outlook for the next three months is also equally bright. *(Rediscovery of India: Tourist arrivals up 14.5% in HI, Nikita Gulabrani/Etig, ET.D, 08/10/2003, D 00/)*

The first Galileo-Express Travel & Tourism awards presented by Tourism minister Mr. Jagmohan. This award has been instituted by the Indian Express group and global computerised reservation system (CRS) provider Galileo.

While Jet Airways bagged best domestic airline award, Singapore Airlines and Emirates Airlines have been adjudged as best international airlines, eastbound from India and westbound from India, respectively.

Dubai Tourism Board and Kerala Tourism have bagged the award for best international and domestic tourism boards respectively.

The recipient of awards includes Cox & Kings (best out-bound tour operator), Sita World Travel (best inbound tour operator), Sarovar Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts (best business hotel chain) and The Taj group (best luxury hotel chain).

Most innovative marketing campaigns of Emirates (airlines), the Orchid group (hotel), Thomas Cook (tour operator) and Goa Tourism (tourism board) were appreciated.

The Editor's Choice Award was conferred on Mr Jagmohan for his contributing to marketing Indian tourism as a successful brand. *(Tourism Sector Posts 16% Growth, FE.D 18/12/2003, D00/)*

D 01 Domestic Tourism

The booming BPO industry' corporate travel in India is growing 15-20% per annum. This, despite most multinationals keeping a cautious approach with' their 2004 travel budgets world over.

According to an international survey on travel conducted by World Travel BTI, the third largest corporate travel management firm in the United States, a majority of respondents have made no significant changes in their 2004 travel budget. A section of the US multinationals plan changes of only 10%. In India, however, the latter half of 2003 witnessed a growth of

20% in corporate travel due to the booming BPO industry and an overall pick-up in the Indian economy.

There has been a flat corporate travel growth in 2003 and no significant jump in travel budget is expected in 2004. According to the survey, the corporate travel industry will see an upswing in 2004. An increasingly stable economy is an indicator of an increase in consumer spending and corporations will no doubt want their "road warriors" on the move to leverage the upswing. Face-to-face meetings will reclaim its status as the preferred way of doing business. "While we will see: an increase in passenger traffic, companies will be smart and cautious about their travel spending," said survey. This year, the top travel alternatives for those companies indicating decreases in travel budget are telephone and video conferencing, foregoing the trip, Web meeting and driving. Many multinationals adjusted their company travel policies in 2003. *(Corporate travel to India registers growth of 20% - BPO and Economic Pick-Up Catch Fancy of MNCs, Arshdeep Sehgal, ET. D, 19/12/2003, D 01)*

There was a 'record' increase of three crore in the domestic tourist traffic in the past one year, while about Rs 4,000 crore was earned in foreign exchange from foreign tourists, the Lok Sabha was informed.

Foreign, tourist arrivals also went up by 15 per cent and there was a rise of over 22 percent in the foreign exchange earnings between, January and November this year, tourism minister Jagmohan said in Parliament during the question hour.

The estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism had increased from \$2,594 million between January-November last year to \$3,175 million in the same period this year. *(Record Increase In Domestic Tourist Traffic, FE.C, 23/12/03, D 01/)*

D 10 Tourism promotion

The Central Government has hiked the fund allocation for tourism by more than 500 percent in the Tenth Five Year plan,

Union Tourism Secretary Rathi Vinay Jha said. Jha said the overall fund allotment for the tourism industry was Rs. 2,900 crore as against the Rs 750 crore in the Ninth Plan.

The government was targeting a sustained growth of 10 percent overall growth in the industry in the next 10 years, adding that this was more or less near the World Tourism Council's prediction of 9.7 percent growth for the country in the same period.

The fact that the arrival of foreign tourist had gone up by 14.2 percent between January and February this year as compared to last year was an indication of things to come, adding that even foreign exchange due to tourism had gone up by more than 16 percent.

The government had spent more than Rs 10 crore on promoting the 'Incredible India' advertisement and marketing campaign over the electronic media alone. *(Tourism to get big boost with 500% hike in funds IE. C, 30/09/03, D 10)*

The advertising budget for promoting tourism in India has been hiked by over 60% to Rs. 65 crore. In January 2003, India's maiden global campaign "Incredible India" was flashed across leading news channels, newspapers, magazines and travel sites covering the Far East, Europe, US and UK. The government had then set aside an advertising budget of Rs 40 crore.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, the government of India has hiked the advertising Budget because after the last campaign earlier this year, tourist in-flows from source markets like the Europe and UK have increased by over 21 %. Against this, tourist inflows from these countries last year had reported a negative growth of 25 %. *(Tourism Ministry's ad spend up 60%, Meena Nichani, ETC, 10/11/2003, D 10)*

The Far East has been the destination of choice for Indians holidaying abroad this year. The outbound travel market in the

October-November period has grown 30% against a 15% growth last year.

While, an estimated 4.5 million Indians travelled abroad in 2002, the travel industry says the numbers for this year will be close to 5 million. The overall buoyancy in the economy has led to greater leisure travel abroad. Bookings for the summer of 2004 have already begun.

The Far East, especially Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have been the most preferred destinations this winter, as they offer short duration, affordable holidays. The second most preferred destinations are Australia and South Africa. Travel operators such as Kuoni India, Thomas Cook and Cox & Kings, claim that the overseas leisure travel market gained momentum from October onwards. The travel market was subdued for most part of the year owing to the SARS scare and the war in Iraq. (*Outbound travel up may touch 5 m, Meena Nichani, ET.D, 18/12/2003, D 10*)

D 20 b Recreation and Theme Parks

For a sector that has its origins about 400 years ago in the Danish capital Copenhagen, the amusement park industry is just getting its feet wet in India. Around Rs 1,000 crore is said to have been invested in this space in the last few years.

Around 400 amusement parks are expected to be operational by 2005. Foreign companies such as Universal Studios, Time Warner and Disney are also said to be eyeing this market. There is no legally defined requirement of area for amusement parks in India. But, the general norm is that a population centre of six million people can be served with a park covering 40-60 acres, say Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI) officials. Mr Balwant Chawla, president, IAAPI, claims that this industry is poised to grow at least 30% annually. Amusement parks are typically located on the outskirts, where land and water are not issues.

Around 5 lakh people visit the average Indian amusement park yearly. Mr Chawla

added that park owners today are looking at smaller towns to build parks. According to Mr Chawla, amusement parks take at least five to six years to become profitable. However, amusement park owners say that higher disposable income and an increasing willingness to consider newer forms of entertainment are driving this sector's growth.

The growth of this market has made entrepreneurs consider parks in several offbeat locations too. For instance, Wonder Valley Resorts, a 30-acre resort and nature preserve, hopes to open its doors to visitors by the end of this year. Its water-park and go-karting track hopes to draw visitors from nearby towns in North Karnataka such as Bellary and Chitradurga. (*Foreign majors eye amusement park industry, Rahul Sachitanand, ET. D, 16/12/2003, D20 b*)

Global theme park attendance fell 1.5 per cent in 2003 as travel fears, bad weather and a weak economy discouraged visitors, according to a leading industry journal about 247 million made it to the parks, however, and traffic in Asia even showed a 2 % increase at its top 10 resorts, Amusement Business magazine estimated. Europe suffered an 8 % drop and visits to the biggest 50 North American parks fell by 1.5 %, with the notable exception of Walt Disney Co's California Adventure, which saw a 13 per cent rise.

Disney's Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Florida and Tokyo Disneyland were, respectively, No.1 and 2 worldwide in visitors for the second year in a row, although neither saw much change from a year earlier, with 14.0 million at the Magic Kingdom and 13.2 million at the park in Japan. (*Weather, travel fears slowed theme park visits, ET. D, 21/12/2003, D20b*)

G 10: Marine and CRZ Acts

For years, the dumping of debris and construction material was destroying mangroves along a vast stretch of the Versova coastline. But a recent Bombay high court order ensures that the very same

Dhoot Entertainment Network, a company of the Videocon group, is planning to set up amusement parks comprising the latest and modern amusement facilities in various parts of India.

Revealing that DEN is in the process of signing up with a multinational company for this venture, Dhoot said the proposed amusement parks would have games, movies, food, shopping and theme-based entertainment, among others. Some of these parks would also have health-based activities including oxygen bars, health spas, etc. (*Dhoot firm to set up amusement parks, BS.M, 5/11/03, D20b*)

D 20 d Heritage Tourism

The UNESCO is sending a team to study the impact the shelved Taj corridor project had on the monument the project envisaged constructing a huge shopping mall behind the Taj Mahal by diverting the course of the Yamuna. They will also inspect the Hampi group of monuments in Karnataka." ASI officers will accompany the experts.

The UNESCO website says Hampi was put on the "world heritage in danger list" in 1999 because of "the construction of two suspension bridges that dominate the natural environment and threaten the world heritage site's integrity".

In June this year, UNESCO had threatened to withdraw the world heritage site status from the Taj if the Rs 175-crore construction work continued. It had informed its Paris centre about the developments. The Paris centre had asked the Indian delegation to UNESCO to furnish details of the developments in Agra.

Apart from the monument complex, developments in the buffer zone - the adjoining area that affects the "integrity; authenticity and historicity" of the place - will be scrutinized. For instance, while battery-operated buses and rickshaws take tourists to the entrance of the complex, residents of a nearby locality can be seen freely riding two-wheelers.

The UN body has granted the coveted world heritage status to 24 sites in India. While 18 of them are cultural, five are natural and one industrial. The UNESCO keeps a watch on their overall condition and provides international expertise for their upkeep.

Of these, the Manas wildlife sanctuary in Assam and the Hampi group of monuments has been on the "world heritage in danger list". (*UNESCO team to inspect Taj and Hampi, Saurabh Sinha, HT.D, 18/12/2003, D 20d*)

D 20 e Pilgrimage Tourism

Tour operators are also gearing up with specific packages and tours aimed at this niche segment with Coss & Kings's Spiritual Sojourn, Thomas Cook's classical tours to Tamil Nadu, Nasik, Ujjain and Bodhgaya. Tour operators feel that this segment, though small, contributes to the overall growth that has been forecast to show a 15 to 20 per cent increase this year. Thomas Cook head (Leisure travel) Sunil Gupta told that a lot of inquiries have been coming in for Buddhist places of interest in particular Bodhgaya, Nasik and Ujjain. He also said that India is now attracting a lot of visitors from South East Asia and expects inquiries to double as the summer season begins.

About 60 per cent of domestic Travellers travel annually to religious places and the industry sees a major boost from this segment in terms of domestic travel in the coming months.

Sita Incoming Services, a division of Kuoni Travel Group India is also in talks with the Madhya Pradesh government along with the Indian Railways and Jet Airways for the forthcoming Kumbh Mela in Ujjain.

It is setting up 50 air-conditioned tents and expects about 1,500 visitors. So far, already 350-400 overseas visitors have booked and Sita is hopeful that domestic visitors will make up the rest in the coming months. (*Indian tourism Industry Gearing Up For Overseas travellers' religious trips For Overseas Travellers' Religious Trips, Candida Moreas, FE. D 08/01/2004, D20e*)

D 20 f Health Tourism

The promotion of health care facilities in Maharashtra will be clubbed with promoting the state as a tourist destination so that foreign patients obtain the benefit of medical treatment and recuperation in one package

To begin with, the council will target certain international markets from where there is already some patient traffic. These include the Middle East and Africa.

According some estimates, there are over 80,000 foreign nationals and NRIs coming to the country each year to get medical treatment and the number is estimated to be growing at a rate of about 30% every year.

The state already has a fairly high number of foreign nationals and NRIs coming for medical treatment. The influx is especially high in Mumbai where many hospitals have an average of about 15 % of its beds occupied by foreigners. However, the southern states, especially Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are known to attract more foreign patients. (*Health providers, Maharashtra govt. in league to attract medical tourists, Jeetha D'Silva, ET.D 20/11/2003, D20f*)

According to a Mckinskey report, medical tourism can fetch up to \$2 billion. Medical tourism is a growth area. A report by Mckinskey last year said the trade could earn up market hospitals around \$2 billion by 2012. Medical tourism according to the report has been growing at the rate of 15 % over the last five years. "By 2012, if medical tourism were to touch 25% of revenues of private up-market players, then up to Rs 10,000 crore will be added to the revenues of these players". However, for this promise to be fulfilled, certain measures need to be adopted. The broad areas of action are insurance, tax concessions, infrastructural facilities, and establishment of standards.

(*Medical tourism can be a gold mine, Urmi A. Goswami, ET.D, 13/12/2003, D 20f*)

D 20 h Golf Tourism

As the government is willing to assist large revenue generating initiatives by the private sector, including financing part of the expertise cost, we hope to make golf an important part of India's tourism offering. Goa and Kerala are ideal targets for golf tourism hubs, with both airport and hotel infrastructure in place even if space is scarce. Greenfield projects are more attractive now as well.

Pointing out that his state is also developing golf courses, Orissa chief minister Naveen Patnaik is optimistic, for instance, of the incremental benefits for his efforts to tap the Buddhist circuit with courses in Asia and Europe becoming prohibitively expensive, India's cheaper alternatives should prove a powerful lure for the estimated 55 million golf enthusiasts worldwide.

There are 168 courses registered with the Indian Golfing Union but over 70% of these belong to the Armed Forces and are therefore out of the tourist ambit. Infrastructure isn't only of paramount importance for courses with international professional tournament ambitions.

Golf courses are sprouting all over India but the problem, from the marketing point of view, is that they are too scattered to be a cumulative attraction. Nor do they have the requisite add-ons. High spending golf tourists look for a week or 10 days of playing on a variety of courses. Experiences of other nations have shown that a course with an attached resort are simply not enough any more, especially as women most often decide golf holiday destinations.

Water and ecology are the most evident ones, although the availability of large tracts of land is equally important. Private parties in Sikkim and Kerala have shown interest in handing over acreage for development. That naturally raises ecological concerns.

The PGADC's biggest project, spread across 3,500 acres in El Salvador will cost \$2.3 billion when completed. In India, ITC

Classic with 27 holes (18 of championship standard and 9 'executive') is the largest; major courses abroad have 36-hole

options. (Goa, Kerala ideal for golf tourism, Reshmi Dasgupta, ET. D, 19/11/2003, D20 h)

E. Tourism, Society and Impacts

E 00: Social Impact of Tourism

The world will have over one billion annual travelers by 2010. This phenomenal growth is bound to have an impact on the economies, the environment and cultures of the host destinations, according to Ms Rathi Vinay Jha, Secretary, Union Ministry of Tourism.

Tourism was facing serious challenges. New tourist destinations and products were leading to fierce competition among countries. Increasing environmental concerns were changing consumer behavior and were forcing both the industry and Governments to change their policies. (*Increased tourism will impact economies, environment, cultures, B.L.C, 3/12/2004, E00*)

E 01 a - Environment Laws and Policy

The Supreme Court today slapped a fine of Rs.15, 000 each on 10 States for their failure to respond to the court notice to implement an earlier order directing the introduction of "environment" as a subject in school and college curriculum. A Bench, comprising Justice N. Santosh Hegde and Justice B.P. Singh, imposed the fine on Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Jharkhand for not responding to the court's notice issued on an application from noted environmentalist lawyer, M.C. Mehta.

The Bench asked the States to deposit the amount within four weeks in the Registry and granted additional time to file their responses. The judges made it clear that if the response was not filed or the fine amount not deposited within the stipulated

time, the Chief Secretaries concerned would be held responsible. On an application from Mr. Mehta, seeking implementation of the November 1991 judgment, the Bench on July 21 issued notices to the States and the Union Territories for their response in introducing environment as a subject in school and college curriculum. Notices were also issued to the National Council for Educational Research and Training and All India Council for Technical Education.

In November 1991, a three-Judge Bench of the court had directed the University Grants Commission to prescribe a course on environment in the graduation and post-graduation level and consider feasibility of making this a compulsory subject at every level in college education. "So far as education up to the college level is concerned, we would require every State Government and every education board connected with education up to the matriculation or even Intermediate colleges to immediately take steps to enforce compulsory education on environment in a graded way," the court had said. The court had directed compliance with the order by the academic year 1992-93. It had made it mandatory for theatres to exhibit free of cost at least two slides on importance of environment protection and had directed the licensing authorities to cancel the licenses of those theatres which did not comply with the order. (*10 States fined for not introducing environment in curriculum, J. Venkatesan, TH.D, 23/09/2003, E01 a*)

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to bring new big urban projects under the purview of the Environment

Impact Assessment (EIA), thereby making environmental clearance mandatory. Industrial estates with high pollution level will be brought under the EIA irrespective of the total area.

This follows a Supreme Court directive to the Centre to amend rules under the Environment (Protection) Act to require the EIA notification for the purpose of town planning.

The order will be applicable to construction of new townships, industrial townships, settlement colonies, commercial complexes, hotels, hospitals and office complexes for 1,000 people or more or discharging sewage of 50,000 liters a day and above or with an investment of Rs.50 Crores or more and new industrial estates having more than 50 hectares of land.

The project proposals, carrying the relevant certificate, will be considered by the Government for environmental clearance on a priority basis.

Also, new construction projects, where work has not come up to the plinth level as of today, would require clearance under the EIA notification. In the case of new industrial estates, where the construction work has not started or the expenditure does not exceed 25 per cent of the total sanctioned cost on the day of the issuance of the notification, too, would require environmental clearance. Since the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, does not cover town planning, the Ministry has suggested amendments to the Act so that it could be applicable to urban areas also.

Discharge from untreated sewage in cities, towns and other settlements is the major source of pollution of the rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

The Ministry is already implementing the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for pollution abatement works in 157 towns along 31 rivers in 18 States. However, the local bodies, resulting in partial achievement of the objectives, do not

adequately maintain the sewerage system and the treatment capacity already provided under NRCP. On the other hand, local bodies and development authorities in towns have been approving new projects of various categories without any concern for environment. (*Environmental clearance must for new big urban projects, TH.D, 29/10/2003, E 01 a*)

E01b: Environmental Issues

The Centre informed the Supreme Court that the no-tification issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and all the States in right spirit should comply with Forests on October 27, requiring the Centre's approval for fresh projects costing over Rs. 50 crores. Some States were rushing through the projects based on the approvals given by the local bodies and without obtaining the Centre's approval as per the **October 27 notification (See Annexure 1)**. The court if any of the States had started any major project without prior approval and environment clearance and the court must put a check on them. (*States should comply with Environment Ministry notification, J. Venkatesan TH.B-5/11/03, E 01 b*).

Describing the conservation of the Dal Lake as a national issue, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, has recommended the formulation of a plan of action to control pollution in the lake.

Removal of excessive bio-mass and diversion of pollutants are needed on a war footing and outright prevention of dumping of garbage in the lake should be accomplished without further delay by effectively managing the solid waste, the report says while pointing out that the lake formed the axis of life for the Kashmir valley and, therefore, it was not only important from the point of view of ecology, but also for augmenting economy of the people and ensuring peace in the region. (*Action plan mooted to check Dal Lake pollution, TH.C, 25/12/2004, E 01 b*).

E 30 Tourism, Public Safety and Health

Taking serious note of the rise in drowning cases in Goa, the state government yesterday adopted some measures including an extensive awareness campaign at various levels and better patrolling on beaches.

Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar expressed concern over the drowning deaths and said about 40 people had died during the last year.

The tourism department has been asked to print and distribute pamphlets to hotels and lodges, warning tourists against venturing into the sea during the monsoons' and high tides.

Parrikar said that the entire 102-kilometers Goa coast would be strictly monitored, as the tourist police and the lifeguards have been asked to work in groups and prevent people from entering into the sea, particularly during the unsafe season. (*Campaign to prevent drowning deaths on beaches, GT. G, 27/8/03, E 30*)

E 42: Child Prostitution/ Child Sex Abuse

Tourism-related pedophilia is moving out of Thailand and looking for more

vulnerable targets on the beaches of Goa and Kerala, a confidential report commissioned by the British government says.

It also said the children in these destinations were particularly vulnerable, because they were often the victims of the connivance of their own parents. The study was carried out by retired British police officer, Rick Wood, who specialises in child abuse case.

His report was handed over to the Goa Government some eight months ago, with specific recommendations to set up a special police cell and train tourism-related staff to help them identify child sex predator.

But there has been no response or action on the part of the Goa Government, highly placed British diplomatic sources said.

Pedophiles were shifting focus to destinations like Goa and Kerala, after the Thai authorities began to clamp down on child sex tourism, the diplomat points out. (*Pedophiles shifting-focus to Goa, Kerala: report, Devika Sequeira, DH.B, 30/08/2003, E 42*)

G. Coastal Regions

G 10: Marine and CRZ Act

For years, the dumping of debris and construction material was destroying mangroves along a vast stretch of the Versova coastline. But a recent Bombay High Court order ensured that very same rubble that was killing off the sensitive trees will be used to protect them in the form of a kilometer-long bund that will block off the coastline from hungry developers.

Save Andheri Versova Environment (Save), which filed a petition on the mangroves in Survey No 161, Versova, in 2001 and have been battling the state government on the issue since much earlier.

The order means that over 50 plots allocated in the area by the state government, mostly to well-known city personalities like Hema Malini, Amrish Puri and Sena leader Datta Nalawade, have been literally left out at sea.

Since the plots were allocated on areas beyond the high tide line, which are flush with mangroves, developing them would mean reclaiming the land and violating Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules. CRZ rules, introduced in 1991, ban construction 500 metres from the high-tide line. The affected plots were allocated largely after 1991, mostly around 1994.

On October 8, the Bombay high court ordered the construction of the embankment along the high-tide line within 18 months and as per specifications approved by the ministry of environment and forest. However, while the state government has given all the specifications the bund must be 12 metres wide, four feet high and slope on the sea-ward side—it is still battling the environment ministry over exempting one particular plot, the one owned by the Khorakiwalla Foundation.

The state government has argued that since the plot lies on the landward side of the high-tide line, it will fall in a lower category of protection in the CRZ rules. Also, the state government said the plot has been marked for a dispensary and maternity home. The foundation is already in possession of the land, and some part of the developed area will have to be handed over to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

The ministry however, has asked for the bund to be built without gaps, along the high-tide line or the land ward boundary of the mangroves whichever is farther from the sea, and ensure that the mangroves in the inertial area are preserved. (*Bund to save Versova mangroves, TOI.M, 24/10/03, G 10*)

The strict provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) are hampering the enormous tourism potential along the coastline of Karnataka.

The State Government has already approached the Centre for a special package to relax the strict norms at least for the six beaches of Kaup, Malpe Maravanthi, Ottinene, Trasi and Kurumanjeshwar.

The Udupi District Deputy Commissioner, Mr S.R. Umashankar said a host of tourism-related activities, including setting up of beach resorts, parks and private cottages, could be taken up with private sector initiative after the Union Government relaxes the CRZ.

With the Centre approving setting up of a special economic zone at Paudubidre, 24 km from Udupi, tourism promotional activities could be taken up in a big way tagging in with private and corporate sector cooperation, he pointed out. Sheltered by the soaring Western Ghats on the coast and bordered by the blue waters of Arabian Sea on the west, the two districts are studded with numerous spots of scenic beauty. The palm-fringed coastline is dotted with bays and estuaries having vast untapped tourism potential.

Mr Umashankar said a private agency had approached the Government to develop a beach resort at Ermal in Udupi, while a number of corporate giants, including the Taj Group of Hotels, surveyed the district for identification of suitable locations for starting beach resorts. A large number of proposals were expected to come up for discussion during the Coastal Investors' Meet scheduled to be held in Karwar in Uttara Kannada district in he added. (*CRZ norms hampering tourism development, BL.B, 27/09/2003, G 10*).

G 40 K- Karnataka

Information technology and infrastructure sectors have been able to attract a considerable amount of investment in the recently concluded Coastal Investors' Meet in Karwar, Karnataka.

Apart from the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys Technologies Ltd, Mr Nandan Nilekani, announcing his company's decision to invest Rs 300 crore for the expansion of its Mangalore development centre, two other IT companies are planning to expand activities in the coastal region.

Golden Life Assurance Technologies Ltd of Mumbai is likely to invest Rs 235 crore for setting up a facility for IT education in coastal Karnataka. Robosoft Technologies of Udupi is planning to establish an IT centre at Brahmavar or Manipal in the district with an investment of Rs 10.82 crore. Investment in this sector will boost IT-related activities in the region. The

coastal districts of Udipi and Dakshina Kannada have an STPI each, apart from other IT companies.

However, biotechnology is yet to make its debut in the region. Biogenus India Ltd of Nellore in Andhra Pradesh is mulling the establishment of a biotechnology centre in coastal Karnataka with an investment of Rs 100 crore.

There are also plans to cultivate and process medicinal plants for manufacturing herbal extract and dietary supplements. Natural Remedies Pvt Ltd of Bangalore is likely to invest Rs 13 crore and Prakruthi Products of Karwar Rs 4.25 crore in this sector.

To develop port-related infrastructure in the coastal region, the Karnataka Government has signed mem-oranda of understanding with two companies for facilitating the implementation of projects in this field and issued letters of facilitation (LoF) to two others totalling Rs 645 crore of investment. The Government has signed MoU with Arcadia Shipping Ltd of Mumbai for the development of minor port in Karwar or Malpe with an investment of Rs 75 crore, and Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd of Mumbai for the development of Karwar Port with an investment of Rs 455 crore. Global Oil Industries Ltd of Adoni in Andhra Pradesh is likely to invest Rs 15 crore to develop terminal major port at Tadri in Uttara Kannada district, and Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd of Secunderabad Rs 100 crore for port-based activities in Karwar. There has also been a proposal for township development in Karwar with an investment of Rs 25 crore by Saraf Foundations Pvt Ltd of Mumbai.

Arbutus Steel Ltd of New Delhi has submitted an expression of interest for investing Rs 375 crore in an integrated steel plant at Mundargi or Ramnagar in Uttara

Kannada district or growth centre of Dharwad.

Frontline Corporation Ltd of Ahmedabad has been issued a LoF for setting up a coke oven plant at Achilady in Udipi with an investment of Rs 32 crore.

To produce steel and pig iron and captive coke oven battery' a Rs 356-crore mini-blast furnace is likely to be set up by Chaman Metalics Pvt Ltd of Nagpur at Londa-Khanapur in Belgaum district.

An investment of Rs 2.5 crore is likely for the establishment of granite processing unit in Karwar with Bhasin International being given LoF in this regard. (*Three IT companies plan expansion in coastal region, A.J. Vinayak, BLB, 27/12/2003, G 40 K*)

G 50- Coastal Constructions, urbanization, land acquisition

The construction on Benaullim beach apparently within 100 meters of high tide line is yet another gross violation of coastal regulation zone (CRZ) rules in this coastal belt in the recent times.

The sub-divisional officer (SDO) (Salcette) Mr Dipak Desai, who along with town and country planner, Mr Jamesh Mathew, inspected the site on Saturday, has issued show cause notice to the offender.

The SDO has ordered the offender to stop further the construction activity at the site, which is at the right hand side of the Benaullim beach area.

Collect orate sources disclosed that naval officials during their routine round over the Benaullim beach saw this construction and brought it to the notice of the district administration. The inspection followed the complaint. (*Constructions on Goan beaches continue violating CRZ rules, NTG, 4/9/2003, G 50*).

K. Karnataka

K Karnataka

Bangalore has earned the label as information technology (IT) capital of the country. It is all set to acquire another coveted title - hospitality king. Figures reveal that occupancy rates at hotels in Bangalore are rising and will continue to remain at the current level in the near future.

A study conducted by HVS International places Bangalore at the top among six cities in the country where occupancy rate is expected to rise during the current financial year. Bangalore leads the way with 86 per cent occupancy; as against 64 per cent two years back. The average room rate has been rising too.

The bottom line is that with room bookings approaching 90 per cent, hotels need no longer lower tariffs to attract guests.

The generally brisk economic climate and the choice as venue of a profusion of major events have pushed up occupancy rates in Bangalore. Be it Bangalore IT.com, Metro Cash & Carry stores opening, Nasscom conferences or the facility management meet, together they have all helped to fill hotel rooms. The positive economic outlook both at the national level and in the State has also accelerated the current trend.

Lastly, one should note the large tourist traffic into Bangalore city, both from within and outside the country.

Growth propellers

The factors propelling the robust growth of the hospitality industry and behind these impressive occupancy figures are aplenty. Stock markets are buoyant with various sectors projecting positive growth in the economy. Bangalore's status as country's IT capital provided that extra thrust,

considering that IT outsourcing business is regaining momentum.

Bajaj says "positive business outlook and investor friendly government hence fresh investments and expansion at national level and within the state specific, the promise of Bangalore international airport project and bio-technology park will provide much needed impetus to occupancy rates."

Elaborating, Chakravorty of The Chancery says the period from November to January has typically been months for exhibitions, conventions and host of other activity. Added to this, many IT and BPO companies have set up their operations in Bangalore drawing a stream of guests. For example, The Chancery was hosts for Metro Cash & Carry stores personnel for over two months.

Chakravorty says there has also been a growth in tourist numbers from both domestic and foreign arrivals. Globalisation has made the world smaller with foreign nations coming into Bangalore to promote their tourism spots, adding to rising occupancy numbers.

Echoing his views, Ms Lalvani says that foreign investments in Bangalore are on a high, with major business coming in from "long-stayers" (namely the BPO companies).

She says with Taj Group occupancy rate is around 100 per cent during weekdays and around 90 per cent at week-ends.

Deepak Subbaiah, Head of Sales & Marketing, The Leela Palace, says "the rise in occupancy is primarily due to the resurgence of the IT business which went through a reversionary phase for the last five years.

Moreover, last two years have been riddled with incidents that affected travel on an

international scale. India just happened to be in a region that was highly volatile and therefore affected by the events that took place.

Hence many projects in the IT and BPO sectors were put on hold till the climate was conducive.” He says the last six months have been without an event, and travel in these sectors increased in a quantum sense and Bangalore, with its edge over other cities in many respects including IT infrastructure and image, has benefited from the resurgence in travel.

Events like IT.com and Audio-visual Expo in the city have been helpful in the upward swing and there has been a 15 to 18 per cent increase in business.

Lastly, they say aggregated economy makes it possible to experience this buoyancy in the hospitality industry.

Future

The heartening rise in occupancy rates and feel-good factor apart, what are the projection for the hospitality industry in Bangalore? Bajaj says the industry is going to witness a 12 per growth annually for the next two years and the occupancy in the City is expected to grow from the current average of 80 percent to 88 percent. It all boils down to demand and supply.

He says there are no plans for any new hotel until and the end of 2005 and even if some bodies wants to put up a budget hotel it would take at least two years.

Chakravorthy says “ Things look very positive...the growth is very good and the hospitality industry may record 12 to 15 per cent growth for the next two years.

He says the state government has been talking about setting up an IT corridor and if these materialize, things will look even more positive for the industry.

For many people coming into Bangalore, their business might be on the outskirts of the city but they prefer accommodation in the heart of city.

Ms Lalvani says this trend is going to remain, as many BPO outfits have announced plans to set up their operations in Bangalore. She says things are likely to even out by the end of 2005 as most of the hotels in Bangalore have reached the threshold limits in terms of the rooms being available. “This is a very positive trend and the City is perceived very highly.”

Subbaiah says the industry in Bangalore should continue to achieve occupancy rates beyond 85 per cent in the next quarter and will also lead in Average Room Rates, being at least 10 per cent higher than hotels in other metros. “The growth will basically come from the corporate traffic,” he says.

As an industry analyst says “with most of new supply having entered into the market, it will take another 3-4 years for developers to plan and execute additional projects based on the current buoyant market trends. It is likely that cities such as Bangalore, Mumbai and Hyderabad will do exceedingly well in terms of room occupancies in the next few years. “

All this bodes well for the Garden City, which is also the home for majority of IT companies. And going by the current trend, Bangalore is turning out to be a very gracious host for people pouring into it.

(Gracious hosts in the Garden City, DH.B, 1/12/03, K)

The state government has constituted Karnataka Bio-diversity Board headed by Environment and Ecology Minister; the board consists of the 11-member, which has been set up under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 of the Union Government.

The state has decided to request the Centre to relax the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) so that it could take up development of ports. The neighboring Maharashtra had sought such a relaxation. *(Bio-diversity board set up: First meeting on December 1, DH.B-29/11/03, K)*

K 11: Planning

In a bid to make the tourism industry the largest revenue earner and employment generator, Karnataka is in the process of drafting a 10-year tourism development plan.

A comprehensive audit is underway to identify and evaluate tourist destinations that would help trigger growth of the industry. About 1.2 crore domestic tourists and 2.7 lakh foreign tourists visited the State last year.

The State is planning to run 'Eco-tourism train' and a luxury train, besides working on the circuit train planned by the four Southern States.

The state will promote the Hampi festival and Mysore's Dussera fete as global tourism events, besides providing world-class infrastructure at Pattadakal recognised as a world heritage site by Unesco.

Karnataka is also betting on medical tourism. Bangalore houses the largest number of cardiac hospitals. Besides we bank on the traditional ayurvedic and naturopathic healing centres, the tourism department sources said. (*Karnataka drafting 10-year plan to develop tourism, BL.B10/08/09, K 11*)

The Centre will encourage plantation tourism in picturesque Kodagu district, the Union Tourism Secretary Ms Rathi Vinay Jha said today.

While implementing tourism projects in the district, efforts would be made to promote eco-friendly tourism to preserve the environment and heritage.

Disclosing that Rs 5 crore had been allocated for the development of tourism projects in the district she said Rs 2 crore had already been released.

Ms Jha said that domestic tourists had touched a high number of 550 million. Hampi, which was one among the world heritage centres, was receiving more funds and attention from the Tourism Department. The Archaeological Survey of

India was spending Rs 4 crore on Hampi, while the Tourism Ministry had allocated Rs 5 crore. A sound 'n' light system at a cost of Rs 2 crore would be erected there and traffic from the main road would also be regulated she added. Village tourism would be developed at Anegundi in Karnataka, the Union Secretary said. (*Centre to promote plantation tourism in Kodagu, BL.B, 25/11/03, K 11*).

K 53: Heritage Tourism

Hampi, the renowned world heritage site is all set to turn more tourists friendly. Efforts of the Union Ministry of Tourism, The ministry had included certain prominent destinations last year in its tenth plan, one of which was Hampi in Karnataka.

The Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs 5 crore for the Hampi project. Simultaneously, the Archaeological Survey of India is also putting in funds to refurbish the monument of this world heritage site. The pollution problems in the area will be dealt with by introducing battery-operated green buses to transport tourists from one spot to the other.

Work for the project began last year. Signs have been developed and amenities like toilets have been 'put' 'up around the tourist spots. On its part, the Archaeological Survey of India is working on illuminating the monuments.

There are also plans of having a site map to enable tourists to find the tourist spots (*Centre Sanctions Rs. 5 cr for Hampi, AA.B 7/08/03, K 53*).

K 55 National Parks and Sanctuaries

The five-year-old issue related to the eviction of tribal people from the Kudremukh National Park (KNP) in Dakshina Kannada is poised to take a new turn.

Over 3,600 tribal families living in the region will participate in a rally against the Forest Department to be held at Belthangady. The National Wildlife Action

Plan 2002-2016, endorsed by the Prime Minister, A.B. Vajpayee, gives them a firm backing. The plan states that protection of wildlife as well as the forest cover should be ensured with the participation of local people.

The Forest Act of 1972 covered wildlife protection and development. It ended individual control over wildlife. The Government's move to reserve four per cent of the geographic area of the country under the reserve forest and wildlife sanctuary category will help conserve wildlife and forests.

The chairman of the Federation of Voluntary Organizations for Rural Development-Karnataka (FEVORD-K), Ranjan Rao Yerdoor said there had been a shift in formulation of policies over the years, and efforts had been made to devolve powers to users of forests. Despite these changes, the devolution of powers had not been achieved as desired, he added. It is in the National Forest Policy of 1988 that the Center recognized that meeting environmental concerns and rural people's

needs are the two important objectives of forest management. The policy emphasizes the importance of people's participation in conservation, protection, and management of forests. The Center issued a circular to State governments in July 1990 to encourage people's participation in the development of forests.

With the formation of Kudremukh National Park in 2001, the Government issued eviction notice to tribal people and it led to a movement by them in the KNP. The movement evoked positive response from environmental activists. The Forest Department issued notice to tribal people quoting a Supreme Court order on the Central Forest Protection Act. This caused a major controversy as the department issued notice even to "Patta" holders and to those who had encroached upon the forestland. Many of them have been living in the park since the beginning of the last century, and "Patta" was given to a tribal family as early as 1899. (*Rally today against eviction of tribal people, M.Raghuram, TH.B, 20/10/03, K 55*)

L. Kerala

L 00: KERALA –Land and People

Kerala has quietly faded out of National River Conservation Directorate's (NRCD) agenda, ever since the entire project funding from the Centre's kitty was linked to performance in previous projects.

It was Kerala government's dragging feet in Rs 320-crore Pampa Action Plan that has thrown its Vembanad Lake out of the National Lake Conservation Plan as well. Vembanad is Asia's largest freshwater expanse and recently shoulders the house-boat crest of Kerala's tourism wave. The meeting of NRCD that met in June had

included Kerala's Vembanad Lake in the Plan.

The project proposes to bring water quality of God's own country to parameters like BoD level to maximum of 3 mg per litre, dissolved oxygen (DO) to minimum of 5 mg per litre, total coliform count to 10,000 mpn per 100 ml and faecal coliform count to 2500 mpn per 100 ml.

Although it is nearly a year since the Centre disbursed the first installment of Rs 12.9 crore of the Rs 320-crore Pampa Action Plan to Kerala, its three concerned ministries - health, irrigation and devaswom - are yet

to take the project to implementation level.

As plan of the Tenth Plan, Rs 1825 crore has been set aside for cleaning 31 rivers flowing through 157 towns fanned out in 18 states. Significantly, no Kerala River has figures in this set. (*Kerala fades from National River Conservation Map, M.Sarita Varma, FE.C, 7/10/03, L00*).

L 10: Policy, Economy

The Kerala government offers a special package of incentives to Rs 50-crore plus investors, over and above the usual perks offered by southern states. This will be finalised on a case-to-case basis, the Cabinet, has decided.

The priority sectors identified by the state are rubber-based industries, information technology, agro-based business, including food processing, readymade garments, ayurvedic medicines, mining, marine products, light engineering, biotechnology.

Tourism has also been brought within the definition of industry, so that investors in this sector can also avail the incentives.

All new units in these sectors and 100-per cent export-oriented units will be eligible for the state's investment subsidy. This will also include expansion, diversification or modernisation of existing units.

The priority sector investors are offered investment subsidy of 15 percent of fixed capital investment (FCI) or Rs 15 lakh and those in backward districts of Idukky and Wayanad are to get 25 per cent of FCI or Rs 25 lakh.

The state government has also promised five-year breather from power tariff hike for new industrial units, starting commercial production between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006. (*Kerala Offers Sops For Rs 50-Cr Plus New Investors, FE.B, 24/09/03, L 10*).

The Kerala government has firmed up an Rs 950.1 crore plan for the tourism sector in the coming year for several projects,

according to tourism minister KV Thomas. He told that of this, Rs 732.55 crore would come by way of Central assistance and the state government would chip in the remaining.

Among the projects include an international conventional center at Akkulam in Thiruvananthapuram for which Rs 500 crore would come as grant from the Centre.

The project proposal was submitted to the prime minister and the tourism department, which had 56 acres of land, was planning to acquire more.

Another project planned was an edutainment complex near Kochi at the cost of Rs 60 crore for which the Centre had proposed an assistance of Rs 10 crore.

At Kalady, there was the proposal to develop it as a hub of cultural and spiritual tourism. The total cost of the project was Rs 19.2 crore with a Central share of Rs 14.5 crore.

At the pilgrim center Guruvayur, the proposal was to construct a marriage hall and also the second phase of the development of the Yatri Nivas at a cost of Rs.13.2 crore.

The state government also proposed to develop the Central Tourism Circuit and the total cost of the infrastructure projects would be Rs 21.5 crore with a Central share of Rs 18 crore.

For promoting backwater tourism in Malabar, the tourism department had proposed a project at a cost of Rs 11 crore with the Centre putting in Rs 8.5 crore. Besides, there were plans to upgrade the facilities at the Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies, produce CD-ROMs and holding annual festivals. (*Kerala Govt Lines Up Rs 950 Crore-Tourism Projects FE.B6/12/03, L 10*).

Contrary to its GIM (global investor meet) approach, Kerala has started gearing up for its small units B2B meet. The B2B meet is not another 'global', the state

administration insists several delegates from the Netherlands, Germany, South Korea and the United States have confirmed participation, but there is nothing 'global' or 'big' about it, pleads industry minister PK Kunjlikutty.

A poser that now needs candid introspection is whether Kerala's love for small units has stood in the way for the growth of industrial infrastructure in the private sector. Not crossing the threshold (Rs 3 crore) of small-scale unit is more attractive to a Kerala businessman than majoring into a big investor through expansion. If there are surpluses, a seasoned entrepreneur points out, one could always start another small-scale unit.

During 2001-02, the number of small-scale industrial units (SSIs) grew by nearly 8 percent (over the previous year) in the state, when the corresponding national average was a paltry 2.6 percent. Kerala is the first to get going in the Planning Commission's cluster approach for small industries. This year its zeal has even defrost the historic ice on bank credit to SSIs. State Bank of Travancore alone targets Rs 260 crore small industries credit during this fiscal. But what is striking amidst the focus on SSIs is that the aggregate government assistance to medium and large units in the state has remained below Rs 3,858.4 crore. *(After GIM, Kerala Is Set For B2B Meet, M.Sarita Varma, FE.B, 10/11/03, L10)*

L 20: Environment and Environment issues in Kerala

The Centre today agreed to transfer 7,693 hectares of forestland for redistribution among landless tribals in Kerala once the State Government issued a notification declaring the proposed compensatory afforestation area as a reserved forest. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting between the Union Minister for Environment & Forests, T.R. Baalu, and the Kerala Chief Minister, A.K Antony.

Though the Kerala Government had sought the transfer of 12,000 hectares of

vested forest land for redistribution among landless tribals, the Environment & Forests Ministry found that only 7,693 hectares was "available which fulfilled the required statutory conditions".

Mr. Antony described it as a "major development" he was confident that this would help the State Government keep its promise to provide land to the tribals as much of the forestland that would be released is in Wayanad where there is a high concentration of landless tribals.

Following an agreement with tribals in 2001 as per which, each family would be given at least an acre, the Antony Government had identified and distributed 2,198 acres to 1,313 landless Adivasis till the first half of this year. However, given the land use pattern in the State, the Government has had problems acquiring land for redistribution to all the landless tribals, and has been urging the Centre to release 12,196 hectares of forestland to fulfill its commitment. *(Centre to transfer 7,693 hectares of forestland to Kerala TH.D, 21/10/03, L 20).*

The world-renowned Silent Valley is facing an ecological threat as a former village officer with the connivance of some Forest officials cleared 35 acres of its corridor at Kakkivani Malavaram, under the Mannarkkad Forest Division, for plantain cultivation, allegedly.

The area that is the core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was taken over by the Government under the Kerala Private Forest (Vesting and Assignment) Act, 1971. The Nellipuzha River originates in Malavaram that connects the Silent Valley National Park with the Muthikulam Reserve Forest.

The Silent Valley attracts the attention of scientists worldwide as it has an almost intact rainforest and the destruction of 35 acres of this virgin evergreen forest endangers its existence.

A recent study of the area by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, said "the present stocking of the trees was

essential for the stability of the soil and prevention of landslips. Severe land erosion and degradation can occur in this part of the forest. The area is very rich in endemic species including rare and endangered plants. It is an undisturbed patch of evergreen tropical forests belonging to the West Coast Tropical Evergreen Forest". However, this forest tract was cleared in violation of the Supreme Court and Kerala High Court orders against felling of any trees or any non-forestry activity in the area. (35 acres in silent valley forests destroyed, G.Prashakaran, TH.D 18/11/2003, L 20).

L 30: Movements in Kerala (General)

The Kerala Social Forum (KSF) which concluded has left a mixed assessment about its success with some sections feeling that it has been able to make a beginning of a dialogue between the various sections opposed to the current globalisation while others expressing strong disillusionment on its lack of focus. However, even those who have an optimistic assessment of KSF conceded that it could not touch the even level of success of the previous Forum meeting in Thiruvananthapuram last year in terms of participation and impact and, that it had numerous shortcomings at the organisational and conceptual level.

To the pro-mainstream Left organisations, which were in the forefront of the Organisation of the KSF, its conduct was an extremely challenging task because they were the subjects of criticisms from different sides and they lacked a conceptual clarity to address them. In fact, there was hardly anyone to own up the KSF in Thrissur while its critics were active both within and outside. The NGOs and social action groups on the other side were apprehensive that the Left was trying to hijack the Forums, and make them into another feeder unit of the Left.

(Mixed response to Kerala Social Forum, TH.T, 26/12/03, L 30)

L 40: Kerala Tourism Policy and Plans

Kerala will soon have Special Tourism Zones and Kovalam, Kumarakom, Kochi and Munnar are likely to be among the proposed areas.

A top official of the state tourism department said that the government would shortly promulgate the Kerala tourism conservation, preservation and trade ordinance notifying the special tourism zones and constituting a tourism conservation and preservation panel.

He said only areas with high tourism potential would be declared as special zones. In many of the destinations like Kovalam and Kumarakom, it was high time that the authorities intervened and regulated developmental activities.

The town-planning department in association with the Centre for Earth Science Studies has conducted a study on the carrying capacity of the states tourism hot spots such as Kovalam, Kochi, Kumarakom and Munnar and submitted its report to the state tourism department, he added. Under the proposed plan, each destination is to be divided into three zones-prohibitive, restrictive and facilitative. All developmental activities at these destinations will be monitored and controlled. Unauthorized ventures will be curbed and any violation of rules checked.

With this end in view, the tourism conservation preservation panel will be constituted with adequate powers to suggest develop mental activities in the special zones and renovation or modification of existing assets and utilization of resources in these areas. Besides, the panel will also have the power to clear new projects in the area. (Kerala To Develop Spl Tourism Zones Soon, FE.D, 25/10/03, L 40)

L 50: Tourism/ Tourism issues in Kerala

The Kumarakom Panchayat has decided to levy tax on houseboats that ply within the Panchayat area. The Kumarakom Panchayat President Ms. A. G. Ushakumari

said that a number of luxury boats with accommodation facilities ply in the Vemband Lake and anchor within the limits of the Kumarakom Panchayat. (*Kumarakom Panchayat to collect tax from house boats, Jeevan News, 10 PM, 30/08/2003, L 50*)

The construction work of resorts continues in Vagamon in spite of order from Revenue Department. Although the order was issued on August 8th the construction work is still continuing and the Revenue Department hasn't taken any steps to curb this. The ADM issued "Stop Memo" on 4th August. But the revenue department issued the memo to the resort owners only on 8th August. (*Construction work continues in Vagamon in spite of order. ((Mathurbhoomi, Thiruvananthapuram 1\ 08/2003, L 50)*

The fifth report of the Legislative Estimates Committee has recommended starting of Eco-Tourism projects in 56 forest areas taking into account the lessons learnt from Thenmala EcoTourism Project.

The Tourism Department has identified 56 forest areas for implementing EcoTourism. The Chairman of the Committee, Shri. E.T. Mohammed Basheer has recommended the government to prepare priority list from the identified sites and implement EcoTourism. (*Promote EcoTourism Project in 56 Forest Areas, Madhyamam, Thiruvananthapuram 12/08/2003, L 50*)

The State Government has formed functional committees for giving appropriate directions for developing projects in Pilgrim, Health and EcoTourism sectors. The Committee has been formed based on the recommendations by Prof. M.S. Swami Nathan Commission (WTO) that income for the State from global tourism should reach 5 million US dollars by 2010. (*Functional Committees formed for Pilgrim – Health – Eco-Tourism (Madhyamam, Thiruvananthapuram 28/08/2003, L 50)*

Going by the half-yearly statistics released by Kerala Tourism, tourism inflow to the state, both domestic and foreign have shown remarkable increase, which is a clear

indication of the growing popularity of Kerala as the favourite destination among all type of tourists.

There has been a credible increase in the arrival of both foreign and domestic tourists to Kerala during the first half (Jan-Jun) of the current year, when compared to the same period in 2002. The figures for the first half of 2003 showed foreign tourists arrival at 1,44,482 as compared to 1,13,223, last year. In the case of domestic tourists, half yearly figures stand at 28,58,769 in 2003 as against 26,84,756, last year. The half yearly stats given above clearly show an increase of 27.61% in 2003 as compared to 2002, while the domestic tourist arrival registered an increase of 6.48% when compared to the same period in 2002.

Among the districts, which received the maximum number of foreign tourists, both during the season and off-season, the districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam leads the table, followed by Idukki and Kottayam. This situation with regards to domestic tourist arrival has the district of Thrissur in the lead, followed by Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram.

Majority of the foreign tourists arrived from countries like United Kingdom, France, USA, Maldives and Germany. Impressive growth in tourist inflow to Kerala, (*Kerala Tourism Newsletter, Issue 121, September 2003, L 50*)

The state has set a national record with the achievement. The number of foreign tourist arrival in the off-season has catapulted up by 27.6%. The number of foreign tourists raised from 1.13 lakhs last off-season to 1.44 lakhs this off-season and the number of domestic tourists increased from 26 lakhs last off-season to 28 lakhs this of season, says Tourism Director Alkesh Kumar Sharma. This growth is much above the all India growth of 9%.

The figure is 2% higher than the forecast of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) made in last December. In 2001,

WTTC and Kerala had initiated a dialogue to conduct a Tourism Satellite Account Research (TSA) in the state. The Tourism Satellite Account Research is now the accepted measure of the economic impact of tourism in a defined area. Following on the footsteps of two US states, Hawaii and South Carolina, Kerala had joined the exclusive club of sub national economies that have influenced TSA. Le Meridian Hotel Kerala witnessed a spurt of 12% in room occupancy during the lean season.

According to WTTC forecast, the tourism demand is expected to grow by 11.6% per annum in the coming decade. This is the highest recorded growth rate in the world eclipsing WTTC's fastest growing country (Turkey – 10.2%).

Significantly in 2001, while India's visit exports suffered a decline of 4.8% as a result of 9/11 events; Kerala visitor exports actually increased by 11% over the 2000 results say WTTC secretary Yogesh Chandra. This shows that the visitors are feeling more secure in Kerala than in other parts of the country. Even the mishaps like SARS helped to boost the tourism prospects of the state said Sharma. (*Kerala sets national record in off-season tourist arrivals, I E, TVM, 03/09/2003, L 50*)

The Catholic Church is sermonising on issues held close to the heart of the social activities – water conservation and responsible tourism.

The Church is embarking on two ambitious projects. The first one aimed at foreign tourists to make them realise that people must resist the temptation to retreat into sorts of happy cocoon, distancing themselves from the social context. "The tourist journey is always an encounter with different pawns and cultures. In every country especially, the developing countries, the tourists can hardly avoid coming into contact with painful reality of poverty and hunger. Their visit is an opportunity to initiate meaningful dialogue", says Philip Nelpuraparambil,

Director of Department of Pastoral Care for Tourists, recently instituted by the Church.

The intellectual impetus for the drive is the direction from Pope John Paul II to treat tourism as a driving force for poverty alleviation, job creation and social harmony. "Tourist activity can play an important role in the fight against poverty, from the financial as well as the social and cultural viewpoints. Traveling provides one an opportunity to become acquainted with different places and situations and to realise what a great gap exists between the rich and poor countries. It is also possible to make better use of social resources and activities forcing the involvement of the poor classes of the population," says Pope in a message to be read out in churches on the 24th World Tourism Day on September 27.

Meanwhile the Changanacherry Social Service Society, the social service wing of the Changanacherry diocese has launched a water conservation project Jalanidhi, aiming to reach one lakh house holds in the diocese. (*Church to play a proactive role in tourism, I E. TVM, 07/09/2003, L 50*)

The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the State Government on 05.09.03 against handing over of Pathiramanal Island to Oberoi Group for ecotourism. The Kottayam Nature Society whose plea was earlier rejected by the High Court approached the Supreme Court. Justice Brijesh Kumar and Arun Kumar accepted the petition. The petitioner has said that Pathiramanal is a bird sanctuary and also included under the Ramsar List. If the hotel comes, that would affect the environment. Another argument is that the transfer of land to Oberoi is illegal. The excess land in the hands of Anthraper family was taken over by the Government under the Land Reforms Act. The Land acquired by this Act can be transferred only to landless agriculturists. Both these arguments were rejected by the High Court. Same arguments raised by the petitioner in the High Court are again being raised in the Supreme Court. (*Pathiramanal handover: SC*)

notice, Mathurbhoomi, Thiruvananthapuram 06/09/2003, L 50)

The sight of migratory birds spreading their wings and landing in Kumarakom is fast disappearing. Kumarakom is changing with the huge number of resorts built for welcoming foreign tourists. With the resort construction and Kayal encroachment, Kumarakom forgets the migratory birds and for the next generation, the bird sanctuary will be just memory.

The construction of resorts the, plying of speedboats and noise made by the tourists at the bird sanctuary have resulted in the decrease of number of birds in Kumarakom. The spotlights used by the big hotels also have become a threat to birds. The survey done by the Kerala Forest Department and Kottayam Nature Society on 19th January 2003 has shown a decrease of 33% of migratory birds. The only rise in number was in the case of Egrets because of drought in north India. *(This bird sanctuary is also in the path of reminiscence, Mangalam, Kottayam 02/09/2003, L 50)*

The Central Ministry of Environment and Forests has rejected the State's request on renewal of forestland leased to KTDC at Thekkady. With this the KTDC resorts of Aranya Nivas, Periyar House and Lake Resort are to be shifted out of the sanctuary.

The lease period of KTDC was over in 1996. MoEF rejected the request given for renewal by the State Government in 2000. After that the Tourism and Forest departments had jointly requested for the renewal. Now this request is also rejected.

The Forest Department has made its laws very strict and has enforced that forestland cannot be given for non-forest activities. The Supreme Court has also given verdict against using forestland for non-forest activities. **The MoEF has issued this order in connection with this.**

It was in 1976 June 30, the State Government has leased out 21.20 acres of land for 25 years to KTDC. The order was issued with retrospective effect from 1971.

The leased land includes Aranya Nivas (9.96 acres), Periyar House (7 acres), Lake Resort (3 acres 50 cents) and Anakkodu totalling to 21.20 acres. The lease period ended on 8th August 1996. The State Government and the Tourism Department had discussions during the time on vacating from the sanctuary. The Forest Department offered the forestland at Anavachal on lease for moving out the resorts from the sanctuary. But the Tourism Department did not agree as they were reaping huge profits from the resorts inside the sanctuary.

When Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary was given the status of Tiger Reserve, the Forest Acts became more stringent. With the wastes disposed from the resorts became threat to the wildlife, the Forest Department demanded for moving the resorts out of the sanctuary. *(Central government rejects State's request on renewal of KTDC lease land at Thekkady, Madhyamam, Thiruvananthapuram 02/09/2003, L 50)*

The Chief Minister, Mr. A. K. Antony in a recent statement said that the cabinet has given approval for a new industrial policy, which also provides industry status to tourism. Before getting the cabinet's nod, the draft industrial policy was introduced in the last session of the State Legislative Assembly. New industrial firms being set up in Kerala will now receive all benefits enjoyed by their counterparts in other states of India. This means, new projects coming up in the tourism sector will also get the benefits enjoyed by rest of the industry in Kerala. *(Cabinet approves policy for granting industry status to tourism, Kerala Tourism Newsletter, Issue 122, October 2003, L 50)*

An ordinance is getting ready for declaring places of tourist interest, falling in an area with high tourism potential as special tourism zones. The ordinance will gain currency once it gets the approval from the cabinet, and will be known as 'Kerala Tourism Conservation, Preservation and Trade Ordinance.' The special zones will be given extra care, and no developmental

activities will be allowed without the permission of the government in these areas. Strict guidelines will have to be followed in these zones, and the Tourism Conservation and Preservation Committee (TCPC) will be entrusted with the job to check any unauthorized ventures and violation of rules.

TCPC will have the Tourism Secretary and the Director of Tourism as its Chairman and

Convener respectively. Other members of the committee include, Secretary for Local Self Government, Chief Town Planner, and also the Chairman and a member of the corporation/Panchayat of that tourism zone. The committee has been given extensive powers, ranging from choice of developmental activities to buying of land, modification of existing assets to resource utilization in the project area, and also for giving approval to any tourism project

A paper prepared by **EQUATIONS**, a Bangalore based NGO, says that the project which was proposed by the State Government at the Global Investor Meet (GIM), will definitely have an adverse effect on the environment, the local population, the fragile land in the Silent Valley and the unique flora and fauna in the Western Ghats.

The NGO is concerned over the Government proposal to make this project the focus of tourism and Ayurveda. Studies on the impact and trend of similar projects in the past and their cost-benefit analysis have proved to be heavier on the cost side, according to it. The report for the bio-valley project presented at GIM was part of an analysis of the issues related to sustainable agricultural trade security system for the state in the context of WTO-led regime.

The proposal for the Silent Valley Biosphere Reserve is among the budgetary proposals and the Finance Minister K. Sankaranarayanan, has made a token allocation of Rs.10 lakhs in his budget for preliminary work on the project.

In 2001, a Government-sponsored committee headed by M S Swami Nathan recommended a series of proposals for a sustainable agricultural trade security system. Among these was a proposal to set up a bio-valley in the Silent Valley National Park to cater to health and nature tourism and to set up an herbal park in Wayanad.

The herbal bio-valley, the first of its kind, is proposed to be developed over a region

extending from the Silent Valley Biosphere Reserve up to Wayanad, including areas of the Western Ghats around the area of Agasthyakoodam.

As a logistical extension, the Government has decided to combine tourism and Ayurveda in the Silent Valley. Specific financial allocations have been made in the proposal for the development of ecolodges in the Silent Valley.

At the GIM, the Silent Valley was promoted from two angles – as a retreat for ecotourism and as a region for the growing and processing of herbal and medicinal plants.

The paper prepared by **EQUATIONS** says that the global demand for herbal and ayurvedic medicines has put considerable pressure on the Silent Valley, as the region is rich in herbs and medicinal plants. A report prepared by Dr. Swami Nathan envisages the export of Ayurvedic medicines worth \$ 5 billion by 2010.

The paper warns that going by the experience in places where similar projects have been tried, local people will get a raw deal. The investors' aim is to make a fast buck and make a quick exit from the project area, leaving the local people to fend for them, it says.

A detailed cost-benefit analysis has to be done and further action has to be based on that, the report adds.

(Concern over ecological impact of bio-valley project, T.H.T, 21/11/2003, L 50)

proposed in the project area. (Need to select one from the same news) Inaugurating the CI office march by the "Gothra Mahasabha" at Peravoor, Ms. C. K. Janu said that the move to start ecotourism would not be allowed in the Aaralam Farm, which was transferred by the Central Government to State Government for giving to landless Adivasis. Thee State Government had

agreed to give half of the Aaralam Farm to Adivasis. Now the move to include Aaralam in the ecotourism projects is part of the conspiracy between big groups and the government. (*Will not allow ecotourism in Aaralam Farm: Janu, Madhyamam, Thiruvananthapuram 03/10/2003, L 50*)

Taking inspiration from the Perumatty Grama Panchayat, which won a High Court verdict against the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Ltd. Unit in Plachimada, a slew of local bodies in the State are waking up to their rights and going up in arms against various tourism projects in the State over issues ranging from tax collection to protection of natural resources.

"The Panchayaths effort to regulate tourism projects and engage in tax collection is often hindered by various government orders and interferences. It's time for the local bodies to be aware of their legal rights and seek intervention of courts," says advocate Raju Joseph, member of the Kunnathunadu Panchayat in Ernakulam, which has approached the Supreme Court for right to collect entertainment tax from a private water theme park.

"There are resorts in Kumarakom, which are functioning without proper license. Our effort to impose adequate regulatory mechanism, by taking into consideration the fact that that tourism in Kumarakom is nature based and protection of nature and biodiversity is fundamental to sustainable tourism development, has hit snags due lack of government support. Even Panchayat officials who took a stand against the erring resorts are being transferred to distant towns," says P G Padmanabhan, member of Kumarakom Panchayat, which has approached the High Court for permission to collect building tax from a private resort.

"The Bekal Resorts Development Corporation, which has acquired over 200

acres in the coastal region, is breaking all the promises on water management and other facilities they offered during acquisition of the land. If the Corporation goes ahead with its proposed plan to sell off the coastline to the Star Hotel Groups, the Panchayat will definitely approach the Court for justice," Ajannnore Panchayat President told.

"The Government has done little for implementing a sustainable tourism plan. The Forest Department, which collects entrance fee fro tourists to Athirapally Waterfalls, is refusing to pay entertainment tax," says P M Puspangadhan, President of Athirapilly Panchayat, which has approached the High Court over the issue of collection of entertainment tax from a private water theme park.

"An effective utilisation of powers devolved on Panchayat for tourism development can put an end to these unhealthy trends," says Saroop Roy of *Equitable Tourism Options*, a Bangalore based NGO focussing on tourism concerns in India and the developing countries.

"As per the Kerala Decentralisation of Powers Act, and improvement, regulation of land use and acquisition of any land within the territory of a local body needs the Panchayaths permission.

According to the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, consumption of natural resources requires the permit of Panchayaths. The local bodies should realise the relevance of these Acts," Saroop said. (*Inspired by the HC verdict against Coke Unit Local bodies waking up to legal rights, I.E.T, 28.12.2003, L 50*)

L 52 a Sabarimala

The Travancore Devaswom Board has decided to strictly prohibit the use of plastic at Sabarimala Ayyappa temple as part of its drive to keep the temple and its premises eco-friendly, state minister for Devaswom, G. Karthikeyan, said.

KSRTC had agreed to operate 100 new buses and 50 mini-buses to temple this year, he said, adding there would be direct bus services to Sabarimala from all-important places of the state.

Taking exception to Union forest and environment minister T.R. Baalu's recent statement that it was not possible for the Centre to give forest and for Sabarimala development, he said chief minister Antony would again submit a memo to the Centre seeking forestland. TDB chairman N. Babu said that total hundi collection of temple last year was about 68 to 70 crore. (*Plastic ban at Sabarimala, TOI- T, 1/10/03, L 50*)

L 58 – Special Tourism Area –Bekal

With the state tourism department looking at promoting the State's Malabar region as a new destination through events such as the forthcoming Malabar Travel Mart, the tourism infrastructure in the area is likely to receive increased attention.

In the process of developing tourism related infrastructure in the Malabar is the Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd (BRDC). A Government company, entrusted with the task of developing Bekal in Kerala's Kasaragod district as an environment-friendly tourist destination, the BRDC has already put most of the infrastructure in place.

According to Mr K.V. Mohan Kumar, Managing Director, BRDC, the company has already completed development of 33 roads in the 190-odd acres that constitute the area of the Bekal project. The BRDC has also developed a water supply system for the project area, said Mr. Mohan Kumar. The work on this scheme, which is still being carried out, has been slightly delayed, as some of the pipes carrying water have to cross a railway track.

Mr. Mohan Kumar said work on the luxury resorts that are part of the Bekal project is expected to commence in a few months. Of the six resort sites that are part of the Bekal project, one each has been allotted to joint venture companies of the Taj and Oberoi groups respectively.

In addition, during the Global Investors Meet held on Kochi, the Leela group had entered into an agreement with the Government for the development of two sites. The State Government is in the process of finalising the tenders for the lease of the remaining two resort sites. (*Bekal getting ready to receive tourists, BL.B, 05/7/2003, L 58* ')

The State Government has decided to merge Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (BRDC) and Tourist Resorts Kerala Ltd (TRKL). Confirming the merger, Mr T. Balakrishnan, Secretary-Tourism, pointed out that the move made sense given the high level of synergy between the two organisations.

BRDC has built up an excellent resource base and has a number of skilled personnel on its staff, while TRKL has entered into "excellent" partnerships with the Taj and Oberoi hotel groups. The merged entity will make it possible for Kerala Tourism to leverage the joint expertise of the two companies, he said.

While the Government has approved the proposal to merge the two companies, the details of the merger are still being worked out. For instance, it has not yet been decided whether the new entity will be a subsidiary of the Kerala State Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) or will exist separately, Mr. Balakrishnan said. The merger process will be completed in a few months. It may be recalled that TRKL was formed as a fully owned subsidiary of KTDC and was charged with the responsibility of promoting private sector investment in Kerala's tourism sector. The BRDC on the other hand was established with the specific objective of developing an international tourist resort at Bekal in North Kerala.

(*Tourist resort development corporations to be merged in Kerala, BL.T, 04/11/03 L58*)

Excerpts from an interview with Jose Dominic

Tourism, Kerala heading on a path back to the future' Mr Jose Dominic, MD, CGH earth. The Casino Group of Hotels has a new identity, CGH earth experience hotels, and a new motive and mission on India's tourism landscape. **Mr Jose Dominic, Managing Director of CGH earth**, believes that the future of Kerala does not lie in the information technology (IT), in business process outsourcing (BPO), not in tourism and not even in the services sector. The future lies embedded in its fertile land, vibrant climate and in its traditional agriculture.

Where do you think tourism in Kerala is headed?

Both tourism and Kerala are headed on a path 'back to the future'. A few dynamic entrepreneurs in Kerala had started small tourism projects in harmony with the environment, working within the cusp of the community, based on local resources and raw materials. Most of them started out with low capital. They had to carve out their own path and had little Government support. Yet, these small investments with large efforts have begun to pay dividends.

Where do you think Kerala's business potential lies?

I strongly believe that the future of Kerala does not lie in IT, in BPO, not in tourism and not even in the services sector. It is very much embedded in Kerala's land and in its agriculture. A whole host of new and varied demands are emanating from the world for natural products as a substitute for synthetic products. Often for organic products, which command a premium price. For medicinal herbs, which are getting rare and destroyed? We have some of the richest and most fertile land and climate in the world.

Coming from you, the future does not lie in tourism... a strong statement

It does partly. But we will come back to that. Like the early experiments in tourism, some entrepreneurs have started dabbling in organic farming, cultivating natural products to replace artificial products and cultivating herbs for indigenous systems of medicine. The whole world is 'going back to the future'. And like the early experiments in tourism, it is the small entrepreneurs in Kerala who are showing the way. They are all small with small investments and small plots of land. But their products are catching the fancy of the global market.

Can you give some examples?

What immediately comes to mind is vanilla. I believe that the Rs 3,800 price per kg is outrageous and against the interest of everyone concerned. At a tenth of the current price, it is still remunerative. The revival has stemmed from a demand for natural products, which has created this crop, this market, and this price. Yet others have been successfully dabbling in stevia, a natural food sweetener, pathimukham, a natural colouring agent, safed musli, a herbal aphrodisiac, aswagandhi, which has rejuvenating properties etc. Cultivating in their small properties, with locally available resources, using locally available seeds and in sync with the community and culture

Having said all that, where do you think you are headed?

My role would be to mesh my small experiments in organic farming, processing and marketing into the fair trade regime of the world. People no longer come on holidays for luxuries and material comforts, which they are privy to at their homes and offices in the West. They come for the experience, for enlightenment, and for a personal discovery.

They want to find out how the traditional communities cultivated the spices and herbs, which Vasco da Gama sourced from India 500 years ago. How the traditional karimundan pepper of Kerala is bringing a new lease of life to tribal communities. My role would be that of a facilitator between these communities and the global tourists. That is where tourism is heading to, where agriculture is heading to. And where the State's fortunes lie. (Saturday, Dec 20, 2003, *The Hindu Business Line*, <http://www.blonnet.com/2003/12/20/stories/2003122001800200.htm>)

objective of developing an international tourist resort at Bekal in North Kerala.

(*Tourist resort development corporations to be merged in Kerala*, BL.T, 04/11/03 L58)

Kerala Budget 2003-2004 for Tourism

Budgetary Allocation for the tourism sector in the Kerala Budget 2003-2004 stands at Rs.74.25 crores. Rs. 22.55 crores earmarked for major tourism infrastructure development. Rs. 1 crore for a Master plan for Eco-Tourism in wildlife sanctuaries and forests.

Vision - 2025, a new tourism policy has been approved by the Government. The highlight of the State's new tourism policy is customised incentives for Foreign Direct Investments in tourism. This would create employment opportunities for 10,000 people every year.

A master plan for development of Eco-tourism in Wayanad, a master plan for Kovalam, a Rs.1-crore project and a backwater tourism development project for Alappuzha are among the other major projects.

KTDC has plans to start an Ayurvedic massage treatment on Air India flights with the co-operation of ITDC. The road stretch in front of the Kanakakunnu palace, Thiruvananthapuram will be earmarked as a model road with the setting up of an electronic display system to weed out banner and posters in the area.

An international tourist village spread over 30 acres is to be created on the banks of the river Periyar near Nedumbassery. It is a joint venture of KSIDC and NRI promoters. The design of the cottages will be according to the traditional architecture

of various countries like India, China, Japan and Thailand. The cultural heritage and sculptural models of Kerala will be a speciality of this village.

The Kerala Tourism Department is to implement an Air - Taxi Service connecting tourist spots and pilgrim centres. The tourist spots like Kovalam, Munnar, Kumarakom, Thekkady, Ernakulam, are to be connected by this air-taxi service. The pilgrim centre chain includes Kanyakumari, Sabarimala, Guruvayoor, Madurai and Rameshwaram. The Government has accepted the plan.

Another proposal to start small aircraft service connecting Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode and Mangalapuram also has been submitted to the Central Government for approval.

The State Tourism Department is planning to appoint Hollywood stars as their Brand Ambassadors to promote tourism in God's Own Country. They have prepared a list of stars including Jackie Chan. Other than film personalities, the Department is also considering famous international politicians, writers, painters etc. to advertise and spread messages to promote tourism in the State.

The State Tourism Department announced a Project to spearhead improvement of infrastructure by developing roads connecting major tourist centres in the State.

Kaladi, the land that gave the world the master of Advaita, Sankaracharya, is gearing up to get a face-lift through a Rs. 2 crore Central Government assisted project. The project, upon completion will provide this tranquil land of the Acharya with a

<i>Department of Tourism, Government of Tourism</i>													
<i>Month wise statistics for Foreign Tourism 2003</i>													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Alappuzha	4531	2891	3293	1755	628	238	989	1476	1504	2663	3076	3113	26157
Ernakulam	12923	12193	8308	7277	4214	4598	4579	5953	8161	8188	11136	12457	99987
Idukki	5148	4729	3048	2167	894	382	1038	2153	1605	2509	3905	4253	31831
Kasargod	113	170	65	47	23	7	22	50	32	23	52	85	689
Kollam	1290	1342	750	882	451	104	349	813	515	449	752	923	8620
Kannur	169	191	132	96	59	247	54	77	41	69	136	167	1438
Kozhikode	586	460	295	269	184	68	249	279	221	171	308	439	3529
Kottayam	2136	2203	1432	1630	989	495	902	1269	2050	2815	2944	3032	21897
Malappuram	129	88	78	96	46	87	138	172	80	135	141	212	1402
Palakkad	49	170	33	22	24	30	25	71	74	28	69	66	661
Pathanamthitta	41	48	20	14	13	5	10	26	29	15	36	30	287
Thrissur	454	157	285	247	173	53	97	121	136	466	225	253	2667
Thiruvananthapuram	14200	11416	7466	5579	4964	4487	6357	6767	5746	7117	9312	11424	94835
Waynad	76	105	56	25	13	19	15	13	59	54	73	113	621
Total	41845	36163	25261	20106	12675	10820	14824	19240	20253	24702	32165	36567	294621

Month wise statistics for Domestic Tourism 2003

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Alappuzha	17505	12396	11289	13092	15668	11990	12532	13394	13326	16556	15450	18921	172119
Ernakulam	92881	73354	65056	78703	91993	75831	69172	82760	92850	91726	86582	101030	1001938
Idukki	35977	26788	23590	33410	43289	42451	23085	27254	31234	40677	41384	51821	420960
Kasargod	11292	11630	9556	12413	12579	9585	11342	11263	11723	11347	12345	12582	137657
Kollam	9495	9678	7576	9553	8308	6922	7874	9159	8291	8093	8243	8698	101890
Kannur	25562	21535	23140	29656	28143	21274	22644	25305	27971	29437	31967	32704	319338
Kozhikode	39334	37393	39920	37571	37291	36451	36970	38934	38557	40075	40755	38563	461814
Kottayam	16060	11795	10338	13795	14030	11680	11920	12106	13285	13424	16811	17535	162779
Malappuram	23911	21620	21993	34444	24209	22046	24387	24217	23465	24499	25158	25153	295102
Palakkad	22238	19977	20743	28552	25612	19415	20192	22375	23432	22309	23269	23055	271169
Pathanamthitta	6340	5198	4891	5456	5458	5446	6195	5273	5027	5854	6162	6714	68014
Thrissur	120758	90928	82782	136060	164123	98614	92896	107138	119565	116125	123723	137779	1390491
Tvm	75689	71771	65462	67312	79447	76264	70290	71218	63449	73484	74781	75881	865048
Waynad	14354	13053	14167	14196	16453	12568	11847	19524	24802	19476	19948	22521	202909
Total	511396	427116	400503	514213	566603	450537	421346	469920	496977	513082	526578	572957	5871228

(Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala)

proposition in a bid to square up with the more impoverished northern states.

Mr Chandrababu Naidu has been insisting on each state being rewarded according to its performance and the states that perform well should not be penalised. Mr Naidu had been fighting against the raw deal meted out to the southern states by the BIMARU States - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh - which show little sense of responsibility. Apparently, the burden of his argument has been that the southern states do not want to lose out on their hard-won prosperity or share the taxes, which these states pool in the Central Exchequer, with the northern states. *(Naidu wants promotion of South as tourist destination, Venkat Parsa, AA.B, 4/9/2003, N00).*

The proposal of the Andhra Pradesh government to permit the opening of discos ostensibly to promote tourism has run into a wall of opposition from women groups and almost all the Opposition parties have come out in their support.

They have threatened to launch an agitation if the government goes ahead with its plans. Interestingly enough, the police too have opposed the plan but for different

reasons. Their argument is that the dozen or so resorts that dot the city outskirts 20-30 kms away will be difficult to monitor for the police.

A meeting of the state tourism promotion board including the principal secretary and chairman of the AP Tourism Development Corporation had suggested to the government that permission be granted for a discotheque at Shameerpet to promote tourism. The officials said the discotheques would increase the flow of tourists into the city which argument found favour with Chief Minister.

However, the decision opened the floodgates of opposition from women's groups who maintain that the decision was both anti-women and undemocratic. The discos will promote sex tourism rather than tourism and will push poverty stricken women into flesh trade, they insist.

They say that the government, apparently inspired by the booming sex tourism of some South East Asian countries, should also look at the social and human costs those societies are paying to fill government coffers. *(No discos in Hyderabad, say women's groups, DH.B, 17/05/03, N00, E60).*

P. Goa

P 00 Goa

A chartered train that arrived at Margao was something new which attracted everyone's attention, particularly of those in the tourism industry. The train with 12 bogies arrived with 850 people on have made special itinerary precautionary measure.

This is for the first time in the history of tourism in the state, that a full train was chartered to carry tourists.

The tourists hailing from Saurashtra region of Gujarat will be celebrating Janmashtami festival here. All the hotels where the tourists have been put up have

made special itinerary for celebration of the Janmashtami, including holding of pooja. *(First chartered train brings 850 tourists, NT.G, 18/8/03, P00, D20).*

CANACONA- Goa's famed Palolem beach may soon be out of the beach shack map of Goa during the tourism season. The Canacona Municipal Council (CMC) has unanimously decided to stop allotting places for shacks this season on the Palolem Beach. The council noted that shacks restrict access to tourists and picnickers, besides blocking space and obstructing access to schools and family picnics, the council also felt that the shacks spoil the nature and beauty of the beach.

Incidentally, the council has taken the decision only days before the onset of the tourism season. However, to meet the needs of the tourists and to make provision for accommodation, the council has agreed to allot licenses to seasonal huts from September 30 to June 15, instead of October 15 to June 15. The Council has also resolved to use its 2,800 square metres of land at the Palolem Beach to convert the spacing into a public pay parking for tourist vehicles, which otherwise had to park their vehicles in an unorganized manner. The councilors have agreed to fix fees for parking which have been spread into three categories. *(CMC to stop allotting places for shacks on Palolem beach this tourism season, Herald.G, 19/9/03, P00)*

The license fee for setting up beach shacks has been hiked by the Tourism Department by 500 times. From Rs 10,000, the Tourism Department has increased the permission fee to Rs 50,000 and Rs 60,000 depending upon the location of the shack.

The Tourism Department has invited application for setting up of around 188 seasonal beaches, shacks along the 175-km long coastline in the State. Two sizes of shacks have been sanctioned - 14 mts* 7 mts and 10 mts* 7 mts, the fee for which are Rs 60,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively. In South Goa, 67 shacks have been allotted and the remaining in North Goa.

Expressing shock over the exorbitant hike, the AGSOA said that it is deeply distressed that the Tourism Department did not hold consultations with the shack owners on the proposed hike in fees and the rationale behind the same.

By raising the fees to such an amount the Tourism Dept seeks to make life for the shack owners difficult, and eliminate the main source of livelihood thereby depriving the common man of a fair share of the tourism trade in Goa, according to the association president.

The AGSOA has strongly condemned this unilateral decision of the Tourism Department to extract such large amounts of money as licence fees when there is no proportionate expenditure on facilities to the shack owners on the beaches of Goa.

To make the small business of beach shacks pay up such large amounts is to make mockery of the Government policy of promoting small ventures and concern for the local people, D'Souza said.

Such an attitude of the Goa Government goes contrary to the theme "tourism a driving force for poverty alleviation, job creation & social harmony" of the World Tourism Organisation for Tourism Day September 27, 2003.

Meanwhile the AGSOA has convened a general body meeting of the shack owners to discuss issues such as the exorbitant fee hike, cleanliness and sanitation in the shacks and plans of AGSOA for the season vis-à-vis the Charter flight arrivals and the forthcoming World Travel Mart. *(Govt announces steep hike in licence fee for beach shacks, Herald.G, 20/9/03, P00).*

Goa will witness the highest ever tourist inflow at 20 lakh this year as against 16 lakh Last year, recording an increase of 25 per cent. The tourists arrival in Goa would cross 20-lakh mark this year," the Director of Goa Tourism, Mr N. Suryanarayana, said Out of the total inflow by December end, 17.5 lakh would be domestic tourists, while the rest 3.5 lakh would be foreign tourists.

Out of the total overseas inflow in 2003, the highest 1.2 lakh came from the UK, followed by Russia at 45,000, Germany 28,000, and the rest from Scandinavian, Gulf and South-east Asian countries.

The tourism industry contributes over a one-third (33 per cent) towards the State's Domestic Product and absorbs more than half of the Workforce (55 per cent) in Goa. *(Tourist arrivals in Goa may touch 20 lakh this year, BL.B, 26/12/03, P00)*

Q. North Eastern States

Q 00 North Eastern States

Announcing a slew of measures for development of infrastructure and human resource in Nagaland, the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, today said the Centre would provide Rs. 520 crore to the State within the next two to three years.

Mr. Vajpayee said the proposed golden quadrilateral would be extended from Silchar (Assam) to Kohima and the Centre would provide Rs. 400 crores for the development of a four-lane express highway within the next two years.

He said the Centre would work together with the State Government to create 25,000 jobs in the areas of tourism, agro-based industry, village industry and horticulture. (*PM announces Rs. 520-cr. package for Nagaland, TH.B 29/10/03, Q 00*)

The Arunachal Pradesh Government is trying its best to boost tourism in this easternmost State bordering Tibet. Situated at a height of about 10,000 feet, Tawang has the second largest Buddhist monastery in the world, founded by the sixth Dalai Lama 400 years ago. As the tourist season

starts in October and continues up to March, the Government has been holding an annual "Buddha Mahotsav Festival" at Tawang in West Kameng district in the last week of October for the last three years. The budget for the festival was Rs. 30 lakhs. According to G.N. Sinha, Secretary, Tourism, about 500 tourists, including seven or eight foreigners, came for the festival. The Tourism Department offered them a mixed fare.

Apart from monastic and folk dances and traditional games and sports, there were cultural "nites" by artists from Guwahati and Mumbai, which had nothing in common with the local culture. However, both locals and "outsiders" were apparently more entertained by the "nites". Mr. Sinha said that in 2000, the State Government had submitted an Rs 12-crore scheme to the Centre for tourism development, with emphasis on eco-tourism and adventure tourism. It is expected to be cleared by the year-end. The North-Eastern Council has also just set up a Regional Tourism Board. (*Arunachal Beckons tourists, Barun Das Gupta, TH.D, 4/11/03, Q00*)

S. Other States

S 10 Eastern India – Orissa, West Bengal

The Orissa Tourism Department is in the midst of a concerted effort to position the State as the 'Soul of India'.

The objective is to highlight the "living traditions" of the State, said Mr G.N. Mohanty, Director—Department of Tourism, Government of Orissa and Managing Director, Orissa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

He said the department's focus was on developing tourism products that leverage

the State's cultural, religious and social heritage.

Orissa, for instance, had a number of important Buddhist sites and the tourism department was in the process of developing a package for the "Buddhist tourism circuit", he said.

The authorities expect these Buddhist tourism packages to attract pilgrims from East Asian nations such as Vietnam and Cambodia.

The State Government was also developing a 'special tourism areas between the Chilka Lake and Puri. Land for this project had already been acquired and the Government will soon be marketing this project. This project was expected to attract significant participation from the private sector.

Other projects on the anvil include an Rs 4-crore project to develop the Puri beach and an initiative to introduce 'shikara' boats on the Chilka Lake, he said. Efforts were also on to establish partnerships with other States, including Kerala. (*Orissa plans Buddhist tourism packages, BL. B, 21/10/03, S 10*)

Sahara India Tourism Development Company, an arm of Sahara India Parivar, on Friday signed an agreement with West Bengal government to make Sunderban a global destination for tourists. Sahara India will pump in Rs 500 crore into its "Floating City" project. The MoU for this project had been signed.

Announcing this the chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said, "We've discussed many other projects with Sahara. They will come up one by one, once this floating city project gets off the ground, hopefully this winter."

Mr Bhattacharjee attributed this gestation lag to "lots of field work", preparation of a preliminary and a final report by the private group. "We are now waiting for the clearance from state and central environment departments before actually commencing project work at the site."

State's contribution in the joint sector project would be only land and the state cabinet had already approved allotment of required land to Sahara group for the project, the chief minister said. The floating city would cover a total area of 9000 sq km.

Sahara India sources said that they had set up an environment institute near Mumbai to take care of the various environmental aspects of the project. (*Sahara to market Sunderban to global tourists, ET.D, 29/11/2003, C30/S10*)

S20 North India – UP, Bihar, HP, MP

Uttaranchal's annual Plan for the current fiscal has been finalised at Rs 1,575 crore, which includes Rs 20 crore for strengthening infrastructure in the State capital. This was agreed at a meeting between the Planning Commission Deputy Chairman, Mr. K.C. Pant, and the State Chief Minister, Mr. N.D. Tiwari.

In his initial observations, Mr. Pant lauded the efforts of the State Government in the sectors of tourism and information technology and to promote development of medicinal and aromatic plants. He said establishment of export zones for litchi, basmati, herbal and medicinal plants and floriculture are steps in the right direction. As a follow-up, he said, the State government would soon introduce a new industrial policy, which would foster favorable climate for employment generation and bolster revenue base.

The State has carved a niche for itself in the tourism sector as tourists flow increased by 10 per cent last year. Efforts are on to take maximum benefit from external and traditional financing sources, he added. (*Uttaranchal Plan set at Rs 1,575 cr', BL.B 04/7/2003, S 20*)

Tourism being the back-bone of Uttaranchal economy, the State Government has announced major financial incentives to all those interested in investing in the tourism sector.

Apart from giving a cent-percent waiver in income tax, entertainment tax, excise tax and luxury tax, the Government has roped in top private planners and consultants to develop tourism infrastructure without causing damage to the fragile Himalayan eco-system.

"The Uttaranchal Government has also decided to pursue the matters related to conversion of land use for hotels, motels, resorts, health spa and meditation centres, tourist villages and amusement and botanical parks. All serious proposals are

being welcomed,” said the Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary, N.N. Prasad.

Stating that their main thrust was to first develop a world-class infrastructure that would be accomplished by 2008 after which the Himalayan State would emerge as the major tourist destination for both domestic and global tourists, Mr. Prasad said it had been decided that new tourism units would remain exempt from luxury tax for a period of five years besides 100 per cent exemption from excise tax for 10 years and income tax for five years.

Similarly, new ropeways installed in the State would be exempted from payment of entertainment tax for a period of five years, waiver of entertainment tax had also been announced for new amusement parks for a period of five years and for all new mul-tiplex projects for a period of three years. “Moreover, the capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15 per cent with a maximum of Rs.30 lakhs is also being offered to the investors,” informed Mr. Prasad.

Asserting that they were in no hurry to attract tourists as their first priority was to fully develop the infrastructure ensuring a memorable stay for the tourists, the Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary said, “The new State has to offer everything that tourists want - from pilgrimage sites to wildlife, ad-venture and thrill, yoga and meditation. The options are unlimited.”

In a first-of-its-kind effort, the newly instituted Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) has hired five leading experts from the private sector to advise and guide the Government on such matters. Besides, three top professionals are looking after matters pertaining to project formulation, finance and investment, and publicity and marketing.

Stating that they have already received projects from the country's top hoteliers and project financiers for constructing hotels, resorts and entertainment parks in the State, Mr. Prasad said a 20-year

perspective plan was being prepared for the tourism sector. “Master plans have been prepared for the Char Dham pilgrimage circuit, a new ski resort at Dayani Bugyal, an eco-tourism project near Corbett National Park, trek routes, development of Tehri Dam as a tourist resort, cave tourism at Patal Bhuvneshwar besides developing new tourist destinations such as Pauri, Khirsu, Lansdowne, Binsar, Munsiyari and Pithoragarh” (*Sops to promote tourism in Uttarakhand, Sandeep Joshi, TH.D, 29/09/03, S 20*).

The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) and the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation have expressed its inability to run the newly built “Tourist Hotel Noopur” and invited bids till December 20 for leasing out its incomplete premises. The HPTDC has spent Rs 70 lakh on its construction but the hotel, situated on the Pathankot-Mandi road, is yet to be connected with the approach road. Moreover, it has not been provided with water and electricity connections. The government has failed to spend even a penny for providing basic amenities before offering it for the public. The hotel has a covered area of 2,720 square meters. (*‘HPTDC offers hotel on lease’ The tribune – online edition, 9/12/03, S 20*)

Tourism and Culture Minister Jagmohan has drawn up an elaborate plan to give Ayodhya a major facelift and develop it as an important tourist and pilgrim destination on similar lines as other places like Varanasi, Agra, Sarnath and Kushinagar.

The minister, said the drive aimed at sprucing up the environs of the ancient Hindu pilgrim centre, improving the facilities for visitors and, at the same time, showcasing the best face of Indian culture to foreign tourists.

He stated that the rejuvenation plan envisaged extensive repairs and renovation of the Ram ki Paudi complex, cleaning up water bodies, developing a seven-km green

belt and river front on the banks of Saryu as well as improving the small and big 'parikramas' frequented by pilgrims.

Jagmohan has also mooted the idea of starting a sound and light show on the theme of 'Rtunayana' epic arr the same lines as the 'Mahabharata' show that has been initiated at Kurukshetra by his ministry some time ago.

His initiative came soon after Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani suggested at a public function that Ayodhya should be developed as a prominent centre of tourist and pilgrim interest. (*Jagmohan plans to promote Ayodhya as tourist spot, HTD, 30/09/2003, S20*).

S 21 Jammu and Kashmir

What do you do when you want to trash paradise? Build an amusement park, complete with duck-shaped paddleboats and crocodile-headed rotating chairs and diesel generators spewing smoke under the pine trees. That is what the Jammu and Kashmir government has done at the pristine moun-tain resort of Pahalgam.

As if this were not enough, plans are afoot to construct a similar eyesore at the leg-endary resort of Gulmarg as well.

On paper, the J&K government has rules requiring careful study and discussion before any construction activity takes place in places famed for natural beauty. The state pollution control board (PCB) is supposed to give its okay; there is also a development board charged with maintaining a careful balance between development activity and a fragile ecology.

But the reality is otherwise, especially when it has to accommodate politics. Pahalgam is part of the constituency of Mehbooba Mufti, daughter of chief minister Mufti Mohammed, and her- the driving force of his party. Her constituents need more income, more jobs; Kashmir's tourism mainstay stricken by the regular violence needs a big boost. And thus the idea was born of getting people to come to Pahalgam, and maybe Gulmarg and like

places, too, for something other than golf and pony rides in the pine-scented air.

It was the chief minister's idea, and his wish was a command for Mohammed Yusuf Khan, head of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

Mr. Khan's men swung into action and in four months, an 'amusement park' was all in place.

PCB head S. D. Sutantra has written a pained note on Wednesday to the Bank lamenting that he was not being consulted. The PCB is aware that it began with the chief minister, and since a functionary doesn't tell the boss he did a wrong thing, he scolds another subordinate. (*Mufti Govt junks paradise for amusement park TOI-M, 10/10/03, S 21*)

S 30 Western India – Gujarat

Another Rs 2,500 crore worth of MoUs was sign (largely with NRIs for tourism projects on the 'Vibrant Gujarat' global investors' summit, taking the total worth of MoUs to Rs 13,000 crore. Narendra Modi's officialdom seems quite optimistic that this time MoUs will not remain on paper.

Yet, apprehensions remain high. Bharat Shah, a Dubai based NRI, declared amidst support from the packed house that every time such an investors' meet is held, the government should issue a 'white paper' on the success rate of MoUs signed in the previous meet.

Manjit Singh Sandhu, a UK NRI representing the Vistastar Group, who has a proposal to set up a Rs 1,400 crore entertainment zone, was not yet sure whether the project; would get the permission to serve liquor freely and other tax concessions. He said he could not imagine an entrainment complex without liquor.

Stic Travels, a Goa-based firm with a 30-year standing, signed an MoU for an NRI firm for a Rs 551 crore luxury cruise. Its managing-director Gursharan Goyal said, "We plan to operate a cruise along Gujarat's

coastal region and link it with Dubai. The cruise would pass through all major places of interest—Dwarka, Porbandar; Somnath, Diu and Daman—before going to Dubai. Smaller places can be reached by small boats.”

Taking a similar view, UK consultant Vijay Thakkar said, “If you want to bring in western tourists, you must serve them chilled beer. That’s their requirement in hot weather. You must understand what they want and act accordingly (*Tourism MoUs hinge on lasting peace in Gujarat, Rajiv Shah, TOI.M, 1/10/03, S 30*)

The long-awaited tourism policy of the Gujarat government, Tourism Policy 2003-10, announced has poured cold water on the hopes of the hospitality industry, which was expecting the government to shed some of its inhibitions regarding prohibition.

“Prohibition is a subject matter of the Prohibition Department. Therefore, the Industry and Tourism Department cannot tinker with the policy,” said Anil Patel, Minister of State for Industry and Tourism. Any person holding a foreign passport or being of non-Gujarati domicile will be permitted to consume liquor whenever he

Gujarat Tourism Policy 2003 - 2010

The dynamic and growth oriented Govt. of Gujarat is determined to develop Tourism as a key industry to make it an important contributor to the state’s economic and social growth and to offer a right blend of Business and Pleasure. This will be achieved by active participation of private, national and international corporate bodies to bring in their expertise and investment with supportive Govt. policies and facilitation. Government will offer the most conducive climate for the industry to grow

Vision

Tourism A Growth Engine

- Hospitality Industry Growth
- Indirect Employment
- Cultural Development
- The current world tourism contribution to GDP is 11%.
- The current Indian tourism contribution to GDP is 1.8% and it is targeted to reach 6% in the next decade. If this can be re-targeted to reach 10% an additional 1.2 crore jobs can be created.
- A majority of the 2 crore NRIs, are Gujaratis who are prosperous as professionals and traders. This untapped resource can be motivated to become

prospective tourists and investors in this sector and the GDP level can be improved considerably.

Scope

Holistic Approach to Tourism Development Methodology

- Infrastructure Development
- Employment Opportunities 90 jobs Per Million Rs. Investment
- Sustenance of rich Heritage of Art & Craft

Methodology

- Event Based Tourism
- Tourist Circuits
- Infrastructure Development
- Innovative Marketing & Promotional Tools
- Human Resource Development
- Private Participation
- Facilitating Govt. Policies to ensure rapid Growth
- Active Participation of District Administration

(Internet: www.gujarattourism.com)

visits the state. Let us look on it as a good start," he said.

The state will go for global branding of its festivals and fairs, besides promoting village olympics under event-based tourism segment. The state also plans to develop beaches at Ahmedpur Mandvi, Chorwad, Nanalajya, Mahdupur, Shivrajpur and Mangrol

Under the *ViShwa Gram* (Global Village) theme, a fusion of structural and architectural models of different countries will be set up on the banks of the Sabarnati and the Narmada canal to give visitors a feel of their countries blended with Gujarat hospitality. Archaeological heritage, dinosaur theme park and e-marketing of tourism are part of the new policy.

All projects with investment less than Rs 50 crore will be approved at the government level and projects with investment over Rs 50 crore will be approved by the Gujarat Industrial Promotion Board headed by the Chief Minister

The policy also proposes setting up dinosaur fossil parks in Kutch and Balasinor, cruise development along seacoast, shark watching and EcoTourism. "The government expects to procure an investment of Rs 5,000 crore in the next seven years. It aims at securing private investment. (*Dry Gujarat banks on beaches to lure tourists, IE.D, 24/9/03, S 30*).

The Congress today accused the BIP of spoiling the current tourist season in Rajasthan by spreading terror and anarchy. The BIP strategy of trying to provoke people for violence in order to create a bogey of law and order problem in the State would scare away tourists from this preferred destination in an otherwise promising season, the Congress party maintained.

"Tourism is the mainstay of Rajasthan and a good tourist season has come after many years. It is unfortunate that the BIP is trying to have bandhs and demonstrations in various parts of the State," noted the PCC

spokesman, "The people who had threatened to make Rajasthan another Gujarat are seemingly still at it," he said (*BJP spoiling tourist season: Congress, TH.D, 28/09/2003, S30*).

S 40 Union Territories

To improve tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands the tourism department has submitted a proposal to the Central Government requesting the opening up of more islands, the Lt. Governor, N.N. Jha said.

Of a total of 583 islands in the Andaman and Nicobar group, about 52 are inhabited. The rest have been declared as "reserved forests".

With the help of the National Institute of Research, the Tourism Department had identified 45 hectares of land in these islands for promotion. The plots would be leased out to tourists for a fixed period.

The administration would not provide infrastructural support for the venture and even water and electricity had to be taken care of by the investor, said Akash Mohapatra, Director, Information, Publicity and Tourism.

A single window clearance system was another key component in promoting tourism. "Getting separate clearance from the Environment and Forest Departments as well as from the local administration for setting up a resort is a hassle that no foreigner wants to deal with," Mr. Mohapatra said, adding that relaxation of the coastal zone regulations preventing any structure from being built within 200 metres of the coastline and the easing up of restricted area permits for foreigners had also been placed with the Centre.

The travel operators were planning to sign a treaty with the Phuket operators on sharing of resources and charter flights. Phuket gets more than 30 lakh international tourists a year while the Andamans get only 10,000 international tourists.

The hitch to active tourism, however, continues to be the poor connectivity between the mainland and the island groups and the limited access to international travellers. A journey by ship takes 48 hours from Chennai or 56 hours from Kolkata. Similarly, flights to Port Blair are operated only from these two cities. The recently introduced apex fares by most air carriers do not extend to the island groups. *(Proposal to open up more Andaman Islands for tourism, Divya Ramamurthi, TH.B, 18/08/03, S40, B00).*

The Department of tourism has initiated a proposal to develop the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep into tourist destinations at par with the Maldives.

In order to attract the high-value tourists, about 10 islands have been identified in Andaman and Nicobar and 13 in Lakshadweep cluster.

The plan is to give these islands on long-term lease to international companies of repute, which will undertake infrastructure related activities, establish and promote tourism in these islands. Companies, including a Japanese company; have expressed interest, senior government officials told. To make the project viable, the 'no development zone' will be reduced from 500 metres to 50 metres.

The coastal zone regulation stipulates that there can be no construction in the no development zone. The travel and hospitality industry has asked for a reduction of this zone.

The ministry of environment has given the go ahead and a core group of secretaries, headed by the cabinet secretary; is now forwarding the proposal to the Cabinet. *(Andamans, Lakshadweep on tourism map, Nina Mehta, HT.D, 08/12/2003, S40).*

T. Foreign Countries

T00: International Tourism Volumes and Patterns

International tourist arrivals to the country have shown a steady growth this year. There had been an increase of 14.6 per cent over last year, making India one of the hottest destinations.

While in October the total number of arrivals was put at 2.46 lakhs, in November it went up to 2.81 lakhs, a nearly 15 per cent rise over the last year figure, official sources said.

After depressing times and global downturn in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S., Iraq war and outbreak of SARS, this tourist season has seen India emerging among the top 10 "must see" countries in several surveys undertaken by travel and hospitality sectors.

The National Geographic Traveller has also featured India as an "experience of lifetime."

The winter season has also seen revival of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Hospitality industry sources say that most of the luxury hotels in the Capital have seen their occupancy charts soaring with bookings going up to 80 to 85 per cent. *(Increase in foreign tourist arrivals, TH.C, 28/12/03, T00)*

T 10: South Asia

The prospect of Indian tourists visiting some of the main sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation in Pakistan in large numbers, or Pakistani tourists visiting Agra and Fatehpur Sikri may be a bit of pipedream right now, given the difficulties of obtaining a visa, to mention just one hurdle. However this has not prevented the tourism industry of both countries from taking the first tentative steps.

A conference - 'Tourism, Bridge for World Peace' - to bring together trade professionals from both the countries, will be held in Lahore in April '04. Over 250 travel & trade professionals from India, which includes, airline, hoteliers and tour operators will participate in this conference. It is learnt that the tourism ministry officials from both the countries are likely to attend the conference to support the outlined initiatives.

While, the policies have yet to be formalised, stringent visa norms that are being considered include the following visas to be issued by both the countries only for the fixed itinerary or for the cities or towns likely to be visited. Further' tours will be managed only by government approved tour operators of both the countries. (*Indo-Pak tourism takes first step, Meena Nichani, ET.D, 20/11/03, T 10*)

T 20: South East Asia

Extending the open skies policy to countries beyond those in the Association of South East Asian National (Asean) region, continuing with the 'Incredible India' campaign and extensive use of information technology (IT) are some of the proposals mooted to boost India's tourism at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) fourth International Tourism Conference at Hyderabad.

The event also saw participation from a 19-member Chinese delegation, led by China National Tourism Administration vice-chairman Gu Zhaoxi, participated in deliberations to provide a thrust to regional tourism.

A chief executive officers (CEOs) conclave as a part of the conference agreed upon the need to continue with the 'Incredible India' campaign, as it was a definite success compared to previous marketing efforts.

They felt that unilateral peak-season 'Open Sky Policy' for Asean nations should be replicated for other countries to make India an easier and accessible destination. They also stressed on the need for completion of

the 7,000 km long national highways project by 2007 and suggested that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) take up the up gradation of roads from city-centres to national highways. (*CII Tourism Meet sees open skies, IT As Growth Drives, FE.B, 12/11/2003, T20*)

T 30 Communist Asia

In an effort to fully capitalise on the growing interest among Chinese tourists to visit India, the India Tourist Office is to open its doors at the soon to be launched 'India Club' in Shanghai.

The India Club is being promoted by the CII that is to locate its East-Asia headquarters there. The Club aims to provide a platform for enhancing trade, investment and strategic partnership between Indian and Chinese businesses.

The decision to open an India Tourist office at the Club comes shortly after the Chinese Government accorded India 'approved' tourist destination status late last year. The granting of 'approved destination' status to India is expected to see Chinese tour operators promote India as a tourist destination and is likely to facilitate the visit of Chinese tourists to India in greater numbers. (*India Club in Shanghai to boost trade, tourism, BL.B, 4/7/2003, T 30*)

T 40 Russia

An agreement on tourism, film festivals and cultural ex-changes are some of the initiatives taken by the tourism ministries of India and Croatia to increase tourist traffic in both the countries. Both India and Croatia are working to ease visa regulations for smooth flow of tourists. Tourism has emerged as a key industry in the country, which was crippled by a three-year-old war. Croatia earned \$7.2 billion from tourism last year, which was 21 % of the country's GDP. It hopes to earn \$8 billion this year. Seven to 8 million tourists visit Croatia every year, most of them from Europe, mainly Germany. (*India & Croatia to promote tourism, ET.D, 30/09/03, T 40/B00*)

T 70 –North America

Two Americans have won the go-ahead to become the next tourists in space, and two more spots for a Russian rocket trip to the International Space Station are now on the market, the US firm selling the spots said on Tuesday.

Two thrill-seeking civilians, whose names are still being withheld, have agreed to shell out \$20 million each for separate eight- to 10-day trips into orbit.

Two more seats are up for sale, locking up all the spots available on Russian Soyuz - rockets through 2007, according to Space Adventures, a private US firm running the

trips with the Russian Aviation and Space Agency.

When the upcoming launches were announced in June, about a dozen people had undergone medical tests for the two available flights and paid certain fees.

Most of the \$20 million per -ticket cost goes to building the Soyuz rockets, which are not reusable. But the cash also helps boost Russia's space' program. Russia's Soyuz craft is currently the only working link to the International Space Station, after the February crash of the Columbia space shuttle grounded Nasa's shuttle fleet. – Reuters (*US millionaires will be next space tourists, Julie MacIntosh, FE.CT, 18/12/2003, T 70*).

U. International Economy

U 30 GATTS/World Trade Organisation

World trade talks held at Cancun, to firm up the modalities for negotiations to launch the Doha Development Round in 2005 collapsed on the final day in the face of deep divisions and fissures among developed, developing and the least developed countries over issues ranging from agricultural reforms in rich countries to new issues to make global trade free and fair.

The Chairperson and Mexico's Foreign Minister, Mr. Luis Ernesto Derbez, said that despite considerable improvement in consultations, members remained entrenched particularly on the Singapore issues of investment, competition, transparency in Government procurement and trade facilitation.

The Ministerial statement of the meet said: "We will bring with us into this new phase all the valuable work that has been done at this conference. In those areas where we have reached a high level of convergence on texts, we undertake to maintain this

convergence while working for an acceptable overall outcome."

Many Trade Ministers frankly said that the Cancun Ministerial served notice to the trade majors that aside from their ascendancy, there has emerged a group of 21 developing countries led by Brazil, India and China which captured centre stage by being cohesive and presenting a strong case on the need to reform the farm sector of rich countries which has been primarily responsible for the distortions of the global grain market and the attendant depression of prices of com-modities being produced and traded by the poor developing countries. (*Cancun trade talks collapse, C. Rammanohar Reddy, U 30, BL-16/9/03*)

India is set to file its 'offers' on the services sector to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The offers would cover most sectors, barring distribution services, legal services, postal and courier services, audio visuals, energy entertainment, culture and sports, R Gopalan, joint secretary in the commerce ministry, said.

He referred to the Doha declaration, which had talked about technical assistance and capacity building so that India could participate in the negotiations on the services sector.

(Services Sector: India to File Offer At WTO Soon, FE.D, 20/11/03, U 30)

X. Culture and Society

X 04 – Local Heritage Sites

The World Monument Fund (WMF) has declared four sites in India-the Darbargarh in Bhuj, Dalhousie Square in Kolkata, Osmania University College for Women in Hyderabad and Quila Mubarak in Patiala-to be among top 100 endangered monuments in the world.

The Darbargarh or palace complex within Bhuj was started by the princes of Kutch in 1548. After independence, the palace complex became a privately owned museum. But a major earthquake in January 2001 seriously damaged the structure. INTACH immediately identified it for emergency restoration and engaged government and private groups to prepare a pilot conservation project.

Dalhousie Square is one of India's few remaining colonial city centres that have retained several period buildings. However, the square has suffered gross neglect and many of its buildings have been totally lost, says WMF.

Local efforts are beginning to gain momentum, but a strong government commitment to the preservation efforts and funds to undertake emergency repairs and develop a conservation strategy for the square are needed if this vestige of colonial India is to endure, says the Fund. The Osmania University College for Women, a part of the British residency and built between 1803 and 1808, is one of the most important Anglo-Indian structures still standing in India. However, WMF says it

has decayed considerably over the past two decades due to heavy use of the building, poor maintenance and inappropriate repairs. (Four heritage -sites figure in 'endangered' list/ TOI.M/ /3/12/2003 X04)

X11- Social/ political system

Book Review

The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution in 1993 gave the panchayats in the country a new lease of life. They were politically empowered to function as the third tier of the Indian federal structure.

The political empowerment of panchayats, however, was not matched by financial empowerment. They still do not have a fiscal domain worth a mention. More often than not, the panchayats are delegated to carry out agency functions, with funds devolved from the Central and state governments, along with detailed guidelines on how these funds should be spent. In other words, the panchayats hardly have any taxing powers and little autonomy on expenditure. The lack of independent sources of revenue and limited discretion on expenditure severely limit the autonomy of the panchayats.

Dr Indira Rajaraman's book, comes out with a recipe for filling up this hiatus in the *Fiscal Domain Of The Panchayats*. The author makes out a strong case for transferring the powers to tax agriculture to the panchayats. The power to tax agriculture, which has constitutionally been in the state domain (going by the division of taxing powers),

has hardly been exercised by the states, except by a few in the plantation sector.

The last time a serious proposal was mooted for a levy on agriculture, was over three decades ago. A Committee on Tax on Agricultural Wealth and Income (the K N Raj Committee) recommended a progressive Agricultural Holding Tax (AHT) in 1972.

The author attributes the non-acceptance of the Agricultural Holding Tax by any state government principally to its faulty design. One cannot, however, be sure about this. A *more* plausible reason for the non-acceptance of AHT seems to be the clout acquired by the prosperous farming community, which benefited from the green revolution technology by the early 1970s.

The expenditure responsibilities of the panchayats are likely to increase manifold if, and when, all the 29 subject areas listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution are transferred to them. The chances of resource transfer to match these are, however, remote in view of the highly stressed fiscal situation in almost all the states. It is in this content than attempt to resurrect the idea of taxing agriculture by the panchayats should be welcomed. Property taxation is universally acknowledged as the legitimate domain of local governments. In the Indian context the principal property/asset in the rural areas is agricultural land.

The author believes that an agriculture levy will have, smooth sailing if the panchayats are allowed to retain the entire revenues and encouraged to spend on productivity augmenting infrastructure in agriculture. The scheme proposed in the book is simple and requires only minimum information inputs. It is **neither pro-gressive nor comprehensive to begin with**. It is a **crop-specific levy principally on high value commercial crops**. The proposed levy will **pilot replace the land revenue but will supplement it**.

Even though the information required administering the proposed levy at the Panchayat level may not seem too much, in actual practice it may turn out to be problematic to gather. This will be especially true of information on the area covered by high value crops on an annual basis. An alternative suggestion worth considering is whether the levy and land revenue could emerged and a single tax, based on area and quality of land (irrigated/unir-igated) be easy to administer. With relatively low rates and progressively, there may not be a strong case for exemptions.

Another issue that needs to be considered is whether the panchayats should levy and collect taxes or should only levy taxes and leave the collection to the state machineries. The proceeds could be passed on to the panchayats or the state governments could levy the tax, but the panchayats could collect and retain them. Each of the above arrangements may have their merits and demerits. Collecting and retaining agricultural levy at the Panchayat level may raise the issue of equity, since the revenue garnering potentials of the Panchayaths will vary.

Panchayaths in agriculturally backward regions may not be in a position to raise much revenue and, therefore, their ability to build up agricultural infrastructure for future growth will also be limited. This aspect could be taken care of by the State Finance Commissions in their devolution schemes. A final concern is whether the prosperous farmers, who have already invested in agricultural infrastructure, and are not in great need of additional support from the: Panchayaths, would be willing participants in the proposed levy scheme. The book puts forward a new scheme, which, if implemented, would certainly widen the fiscal domain of the panchayats, quite significantly.

Dr Kurian is adviser (FR) at the Planning Commission. (If Only Panchayaths had the rights to tax, FE.B, 7-12-04, X11)

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has issued orders notifying the functions of the Panchayat bodies, putting an end to the confusion on the issue. Called activity mapping, the concept was first mooted by the Task Force, constituted by the Union Ministry of Rural Development to go into the devolution of powers and functions of the Panchayat Raj institutions, in its report submitted in August 2001.

Later, the Working Group on Decentralisation, comprising State Government officials, endorsed the concept, with some modification in its report in March 2002. The Government took time to introduce an amendment Bill to the Panchayat Raj Act making far-reaching changes in the concept.

The notification is expected to make the Panchayat bodies' more meaningful. For activity mapping, the activities of the three-tier set-up has been divided into 26 clusters covering crucial sectors such as housing and education for delineation of the functions of zilla, taluk, and gram panchayats. The delineation of functions revolved rounds the zilla panchayats formulating the schemes, the taluk panchayats coordinating the implementation between the zilla and gram panchayats and the gram panchayats implementing the scheme.

The taluk panchayat gets the responsibility of implementation only in cases of work involving more than one-gram panchayat. The work not allotted to the zilla and gram Panchayaths, come under the purview of taluk Panchayaths.

In Minor Irrigation and Watershed Management, the gram Panchayaths have to identify locations and execute the projects, construct purification tanks, and check dams, enforce inter-well distance, identify the beneficiaries under various programmes while the zilla Panchayaths formulate plans, assigns them, and coordinate among the various departments and funding while taluk Panchayaths

implement the inter- Gram Panchayat projects. (*Confusion over Panchayat work cleared, Madan Mohan, TH.B, 8/12/03, X11*)

With a number of women candidates winning in the recent Assembly elections in four States, women Councilors of the ruling Congress in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are demanding their "share" in the decision-making process of the civic body.

Arguing that they no longer want to be vested with decorative posts and serve as mere rubber stamp of their male counterparts, the Congress women Councilors have urged the party high command that they be given an opportunity to perform and show their mettle in the administrative arena.

At least three senior women Councilors have entered the race for the prestigious post of Chair-manship of the Standing Committee and the Leader of the House in the civic body that has fallen vacant following the election of the present incumbent, Ram Babu Sharma, to the Delhi Assembly. All three are second-timers and rue that so far they have not been entrusted with administrative responsibilities in the Corporation. (*Women demand their share of power, Lalit.K.Jha, TH.D, 11/12.2003, X11*)

X31- Status of Women (General)

Objectification of women' might be distorted English but how appropriate it is can only be realised by closely watching some of the leading commercial advertisements in India and abroad. It's a disease effectively exported from the West and fast catching up in India.

Indian ads are generally somewhat more restrained but moving in the same direction.

Examples can be multiplied but the issues are simple. One, we all likes to see such titillating images and may even admire the creativity and the double entendres. Second, the frequent use of the body parts of the female, (legs, breasts and stomach)

without even showing the face, is objectification of women at its worst - worse than its milder form of using women in traditional roles only (i.e. wives and mothers). Third, detailed empirical and statistical studies establish that men exposed to such overt sexually suggestive ads featuring females will themselves indulge in greater objectification of women than those not exposed to such ads. That does not augur well for our law, order, rape and sexual assault statistics.

But, fourth, one must counterbalance the need to protect women by pointing out that their cause is hardly helped when several of their gender proudly declare (as was recently done by an actress trying to 'make it') that "a heroine must necessarily be the object of lust... I want people to throw coins on the screen".

Fifth, the remedy cannot be pompous pontification or moral policing. Existing advertisement guidelines not only need to be tightened but, more importantly; stringently imposed and operationalised voluntarily through mature peer pressure and through industry associations. External interference or paternalistic laws will not help - the line can be best drawn by a self-awareness of when enough is enough.

Sixth, when we draw guidelines, we have to be careful to be reasonable, balanced and not lean too much in favour of the so-called exploited and harassed woman. There is another side of the story, which is best illustrated by reference to the related issue of sexual harassment. The Supreme Court in Vishakha (1997) did yeoman service to gender justice by stipulating guidelines 1:00 breach of which constitutes sexual harassment at the workplace as also violation of fundamental rights - including the right to equality; to practice trade profession and to life and liberty. (*Objects of Desire*, Abhishek Singhvi, DA.B, 17/12/2003, X31)

X33- Women's Work/ Women Workers

The study titled-Gender Impact of WTO on Women's Livelihood in India- has been conducted on an all India basis in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTA) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The findings of the study are significant especially in the light of the fact that the Cancun WTO Ministerial talks have failed due to the North-South perception gap in looking at the evolving trade arrangements in the post liberalisation and globalisation scenario. India's tough stand taken at the Cancun is also ratified by the study as trade continues to become more and more unfair vis-a-vis working women and other marginalised groups.

TEXTILE SECTOR: The study based on secondary research also found that the increasing mechanisation of the textile sector could pose a threat to women's jobs because women tend to be employed in greater numbers in the more labour-intensive processes.

The study emphasised that many of the jobs created in the food-processing sector were very casual in nature and that women workers are over-represented in part time work and in the unorganized sector.

The study recommends that policy formulation should focus on welfare of workers, particularly women workers, in the industry.

It has also recommended that there is a need for the central government and employers to impart training to women to up-grade their skills so that they can adapt to changing needs. (*Women workers languish in 'casual' sectors*, DH.B, 21/9/03, X33)

India's national carrier, Air-India, has determinedly stuck to the differential categorisation of male and female crewmembers. And instead of accepting the far-sighted Bombay High Court judgment that merged the two categories and ensured

that they had the same service conditions, it chose to go to the Supreme Court in appeal. The apex court has now ruled that there is nothing discriminatory if the airline insists that women crew members retire from flying at 50 and opt to work as ground

staff until 58 while the men can continue to work as cabin crew until they are 58.

The court has stated, “Air-India is a travel industry. Pleasing appearance, manners and physical fitness are re-quired for members of the crew of both sexes”. If these

Interview with Dr.Poornima Advani

Dr. Poornima Advani, chairperson, National Commission for Women (NCW), is an acknowledged authority on criminal jurisprudence and family laws. Dr Advani has taught at the University of Mumbai and has also lectured at the University of London in the UK and the University of Sydney in Australia. She is also a medical professional and is associated with a physiotherapy Clinic in South Mumbai.

Her three years at the commission have been notable for the scholarly work she has undertaken in studying gender-related laws and proposing amendments in as many as three dozen statutes. Also, notable are her efforts in focusing national attention on the enforcement of existing women-related laws, and the need for gender-sensitisation in the government machinery and civil society. Dr Advani spoke to Prachi Raturi on the status of the Sexual Harassment of Women at their Workplace (Prevention) Bill, 2000, and other related issues. Excerpts:

What is the status of the Bill?

We’ve been consulting agencies, NGOs, and other agencies. It should be ready by the end of this year.

And how would the Bill help?

Well, it will at least be taken more seriously. People would probably be more aware of it than they are now, since what we have at present are only guidelines given by the Supreme Court. But a lot of people are not even aware that such guidelines exist. Infact there are Companies that have formed committees for redressal of problems of sexual harassment at workplace but the employees are not even aware of it.

How different is the Bill from the Supreme Court guide-lines?

I’d say it’s better organised. It’s more detailed and it gives in a very organised manner details of what should be done after a case of sexual harassment. Who is the officer concerned, how to file a report, what is the penalty and other such details.

After the Bill is passed, how would we compare with say developed countries on the issue?

What is a developed nation? They have more divorce cases than us. They have more broken families. Why should we compare with other countries? For me the ultimate aim is to give dignity to every woman. Every woman should be able to work with dignity and walk without fear. My aim is to give to her what the constitution willed her to get—a life of dignity.

While NCW has been leading the government bodies and PSUs on the issue, what is happening in the private sector?

Even places that say that they adhere to the Supreme Court guidelines are only doing lip service. Phaneesh Murthy’s is just one case that has come out. There are thousands others, which are not even reported. Besides, passing the Bill, we need to bring in change in attitude. The birth of girl child is not welcomed. There are rape cases all over the country. We need to change our attitude towards women. That is when such a Bill would matter. ((‘Every Woman Should Be Able To Work With Dignity’, Prachi Raturi, FE/DA/12-10-2003/X33)

are the criteria, then both men and women should be tested and if either fail, they should be reassigned to ground duties. Are all men over 50 fitter, more "pleasant" looking, than women crew of that then why is this argument being used only to restrict women?

(Flying backwards, TH.B, 27/07/03, X33/C24)

The 'informalisation' of labour sector has virtually ended the concept of minimum wages structure for the women agricultural labour in rural Haryana where workers are now usually paid piece-rate' wages. Minimum wages are 'fixed on a daily basis and it is the employer who fixes the duration of working hours also.

A study on the changing patterns of women's work in rural Haryana conducted by the Indian School of Women's Studies and Development (affiliated to All India Democratic Women's Association), found that women workers were almost totally excluded from the employment generation programmes as a result of 'inappropriate' choice of the public works and frequent use of contractors and labour displacing machines. Whenever hired, workers are paid piece- the rated wages and earnings of about 90 per cent of the women (workers under employment generation programmes are) lower than the minimum wages. Sponsored by the Union Labour Ministry, the study is based on a survey of 445 landless manual worker households -from two villages in Haryana -Dhamar in Rohtak district and Birdhana in Patehabad district -both different in terms of size, caste composition, land distribution, cropping pattern and systems of labour hiring. The data on employment from these two villages, however, bring out some striking similarities.

About 80 per cent of women in the working age-group (16 to 60 years) did some hired work but on an average, a woman manual worker found employment for only about 40 days in a year as against a man who found employment for 100 days. This was

mainly because of exclusion of women workers from non-agricultural labour average annual earnings of women workers are very low in absolute terms (Rs. 1,839 in Dhcuitar and Rs 1,584 in Birdhana) and in relation to earnings of male workers (Rs 6,162 in Dhamar and Rs 6,626 in Bird-hana). Another disturbing trend that came up in the study was the revival of 'siri' system of contract labour in Birdhana where agricultural production was based on hiring of long-term workers under a kind of sharecropping contract. These workers are called siris' and they work under a contract that provided them a small share in the output. In return they were required to give an equivalent share in the material costs and provide all labour. The share of the siri in the 'output is so small that they seldom make any profit, the study says adding that the siri contract is designed to make the workers maximize the use of family labour and minimise hiring of casual work-ers. Use of female and child la-bour is central to the siri contract system.

The findings, carried out last year by a team lead by Vikas Rawal, will be handed over to the Ministry by the end of the month. *(Women bear a heavier burden, TH.B, 16/12/03, X33)*

Major findings

■ URBAN India's workforce seem be headed for a greater gender imbalance even as rural areas are witnessing larger number of women coming out to seek employment. Not only has the number of women in the labour force in urban areas declined in the recent years but their success with finding and retaining employment has dropped.

■ In contrast, in the rural areas, women are relatively more successful finding employment, although the number of job seekers has outstripped the number of jobs available.

■ This has emerged in the latest report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) released recently, which

summarises the results of the 57th round for 2001-02.

■ The report based on data collected between July 2001 and June 2002 shows participation rate of urban women in labour force has declined 4% to 193 per 1,000 from 201 per 1,000 registered in the 56th round of the survey carried out in the previous year.

■ In the rural areas, on the other hand, the number of women in the labour force has burgeoned 8% to 463 per 1,000 from 433 per 1,000.

■ The labour force comprises all employed and those seeking employment while the employed form a subset referred to as work-force. In other words the workforce is a large subset of the labour force.

■ The decline in workforce of urban women was sharper at 5.2%. The number of urban women in the workforce reduced 1 to 185 per 1,000 from 195 per 1,000. The unemployment rate has increased to 4.1 % in the 57th round from 3% reported in the 56th round.

■ Unemployment rate among rural women too rose, from 0.5% in 2000-01 to 1.5% in 2001-02, but that's because the increase in number of working women did not keep pace at 6.9% with the increase in labour force.

■ Planning Commission adviser Pronab Sen reckons the decline in the number of women joining the labour force in urban areas could, to some extent, be attributed to women spending more years on education.

However, a disturbing factor that emerges from the data is that the number of girls in the age group 5-14 who work rather than go to school has gone up. The number of girls under 14 years in the workforce has increased from 21 per 1,000 persons in the 56th round to 35 per 1,000 in the 57th round in the urban areas, and from 39 to 53 per 1,000 persons in rural areas.

■ The story is a lot happier for men, both in rural and urban areas. The unemployment rate for men has declined in the rural areas to 1% from 1.5% and, in the urban areas, it has more or less remained constant at 3.9%. In both rural and urban areas, the rate at which men are finding jobs is higher than the rate at which their presence in the labour force is expanding.

Overall the employment situation in the country can be described as stable, thanks to the drop in rural male unemployment. (*Women labour on a decline in urban areas, finds survey*, Tina Edwin, *ETD*, 18/12/2003, X33)

X40- Children

In an unprecedented legislation against paedophilia and other child abuse, which are believed to be scourging the tourist state, a clause in the Goa Children's Act, brought in July this year, makes it mandatory for tourists escorting a n unrelated child to welfare department.

The fine for not informing the director within three months will be Rs 1 lakh and simple imprisonment for one year.

Although the Act is still to be implemented, it promises to revolutionize the way authorities with the recent sharp spurt in child trafficking in the tourist state several local NGOs and international social agencies had complained about Goa becoming a paedophiles haven. However, there would be problems in the implementation of the new Act, said child rights expert and lawyers at a workshop on 'Child Rights and the Law' organised by the India Centre for Human Rights and Law. For one, figuring out whether a child is related to the adult or not and awareness among tourists about this rule would be difficult to achieve, they said. Also, a three-month period to report the case was too long, as most tourists do not spend so much time there.

But the move is expected to increase vigilance in hotels and lodges. "No child will be allowed to enter any room of any

hotel or establishment which provides boarding or lodging,” It states. Also, hotels will have to ensure that children are safe not only on its premises but also in adjoining beaches and parks.

“It was difficult to take action against paedophiles until now because the law had no teeth. Action could have been taken in the five recent paedophilia cases if this law was in place,” said Nishta Desai of the Child Welfare Committee, Goa. The Act also prohibits child prostitution and anybody exploiting a child may be fined Rs 1lakh and given a year in jail. *(Clean-up act: Goa gives child sex the broom, TOI.M, 22/09/03, X40)*

Rights activists have called for the repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalizes consensual sex between same sex adults. They also called for a new law to deal with child sexual abuse.

At a press conference organised by “Voices Against Section 377”, representatives of gay rights, women’s groups, child rights, health and human rights organisations said the section criminalised homosexual sex while failing to protect children from abuse.

The campaign was in response to the Government stand on a public interest litigation petition filed in the Delhi High Court by the Naz Foundation seeking the removal of adult, private, consensual homosexual sex from the ambit of Section 377. The Government opposed the plea saying that public opinion did not favour a change in the law.

Vijay Nagraj, Director, Amnesty International India, said the Government’s response was a “deliberate and willful violation” of international human rights law. It was trying to “preserve a colonial law through the creation of sociological and legal fiction.” The law had to be based on human rights principles and “cannot blindly follow public opinion”. If this were to be the case, “the practice of untouchability, child marriage, child labour etc. would all have to be legalised given

their widespread prevalence and acceptability in society.”

Lawyer and gay rights activist Aditya Bandhopadhyay said the section was repeatedly used to violate the constitutional rights to equality (Article 14), freedom (Article 19) and personal liberty (Article 21) of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and hijras. Police, the medical establishment and even the family used it as a tool of abuse ranging from sexual assault in police custody and extortion to electric shock treatment to “cure” homosexuality.

The Government’s claim that no rights violations were involved was false as was its calling on “Indian tradition” for justification. There was nothing “Indian” about the law. It was a colonial law that even Harish Salve, who had appeared for the state in related matters, had called a “vestige and cobweb of colonialism that needs to be done away with.”

Enakshi Ganguly Thukral of the National Campaign against Child Abuse said the Government had justified the retention of Section 377 on the ground that it was necessary to prosecute child abusers. This was simply a means to pit child rights against gay rights and to suggest that all paedophiles were homosexual men. This reflected the state’s lack of any real concern for the child’s search for justice. The Government itself had acknowledged the need for a separate law to deal with child sexual abuse in its first periodic report to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child.

She said double standards exemplified the state’s determined criminalisation of homosexual sex for “the prevalence of rape of women by men, or of girl children by men had not lead the state to question the legality of heterosexuality.”

The group felt there was a need not only to change the law but -also social attitudes. But the law is a marker in a democracy. “There is no place for a state to interfere in consensual adult sexual activity in a

democracy,” Mr. Nagaraj said. (*Activists for new law to deal with child abuse / TH. D, 20/11/2003, X40*)

In an attempt to highlight the serious issue of child trafficking, several non-government organisations working for the rights of children. Shouting slogans to end child labour, it was also an occasion for children to demand a right over their own life.

Defining child trafficking as a movement of children from place to place through force, coercion or deception into situations of economic and sexual exploitation, activists demanded that the government should take a firm stand on this issue.

“Prostitution is the most recognized form of trafficking. Millions of children forced to beg, sell drugs, work as domestic servants or sold into marriage are often left out of the “standard definition”, While the International Labour Organisation estimates that roughly 5 per cent of children in India form part of the total labour force, this is an area that is still being ignored,” stated Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini. (*Children demand a right over their lives / TH. D, 13-12-2003 X 40*)

X 42 Child Labour

If you are one of those who employ a child as domestic help at home or at a restaurant, you could be in trouble if you don't send them to school. That is, if the draft Free and Compulsory Education for Children Bill is passed in its present form. If passed those employing children in a manner that pre-vents them from attending an approved formal or alternative school would face a fine of Rs 500 and a further fine of Rs 50 for every day after being notified of their transgress.

While child labour is illegal in the country, the fact is children do take up employment and are lost to the formal education system. Interestingly, the draft bill is rather pragmatic. Instead of pretending that child labour doesn't happen or can be prevented in a single stroke, it only states that nobody can “employ or engage” a child in a manner which would prevent the child from attaining an “approved” school. (*Bill to make schooling mandatory for child employees on the anvil, Urmi. A. Goswami, ET.B, 31/10/03, X 42*)

Interview with Shantha Sinha

Shantha Sinha was awarded the 2003 Ramon Magsaysay award for Community Leadership, for “guiding the people of Andhra Pradesh to end the scourge of child labour and send all their children to school”. Her organisation, Mamidipudi Venkata-rangaiya Foundation (MVF), has helped over 2.41 lakh village children get regular education in Andhra Pradesh. The MVF has introduced the unique concept of community teachers who double as child

labour activists, thus ensuring children's attendance at school. She spoke to Sarika Jain Antony:

Why is child labour so widespread in India? Is poverty responsible for this?

We have a culture of child labour: We think it is perfectly normal for poor children to work. This acceptance of child labour is so deeply enmeshed in society that it stifles all original thought. It is not poverty but the poverty argument that is so debilitating.

To find a solution, we have to turn the argument upside down. The tragedy lies in the assumption that child labour is an issue of survival. Nothing could be farther from the truth. During our work in Andhra Pradesh villages we found that rural schools were full of very poor children, while children from relatively better off families were working.

We asked ourselves how this was possible. We realised there were non-economic

factors at play too. About 80 per cent of the parents who sent their children to work didn't really need their wages. Work was tradition-ally seen as a more natural activity than going to school.

What was MVF's approach to child labour? -

The villagers knew the difference education could make and wanted proper schools. We had to create the right environment, and give them moral support. The value system had to be changed. We believe that the surest way of eliminating child labour is by harnessing the parents' desire to ensure a better future for their children. Once children show progress in school, parents are willing to make sacrifices for them. Far from worrying about the lost income, they end up spending more on pampering the child.

What challenges did you face when you began work in 1991?

Initially, the organisation was small, and our credibility low. The villagers would tell us, "You have a salary and we don't". We encountered heavy resistance; they felt we couldn't understand their problems. Child labour was seen as a 'private' issue. Moreover, the existing school infrastructure was weak, making it difficult for us to motivate parents. There was little appreciation for children's rights. The first positive response we got was from those village youth who went to school and became literate. Since they had siblings and cousins who were child laborers, their proximity to the issue was greater. They also realised the value of education. So we anchored our work on them. We mobilized youth groups, teachers and employers. The youth, often 100 strong, went from village to village telling parents to send their children to school. The fact that their own youth were speaking to them made a greater impact on villagers. We spoke to landlords, organised rallies... Once the word spread, people from other villages began approaching us for sending their

children to school. Peer pressure also helped.

Today we work with village youth, gram panchayats, school education committees, women's groups, and young girls' groups - all federated into the Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC). This network works as a local counseling centre in every Mandal or village. Sometimes, all that is required is taking care of logistics such as getting birth certificates, talking to teachers to secure admission into a school or hostel, and other paperwork.

Does caste and gender discrimination play a role in perpetuating child labour?

Girls are more vulnerable because our value system has a gender bias. But once convinced, parents are as willing to invest in the education of their daughters as their sons. We just have to break the pattern in their thinking. Continuity in boys' education is easier as they have less housework to do. We form schoolgirls' committees and explain to parents that daughters should be relieved from household duties, and given time for leisure and study, especially before examinations. We also intervene in cases of early marriage and try to convince both sides to allow girls to complete their education. We did not face resistance from any particular caste once we established the norm that every child must go to school. Of course, work with girl children continues to be more challenging.

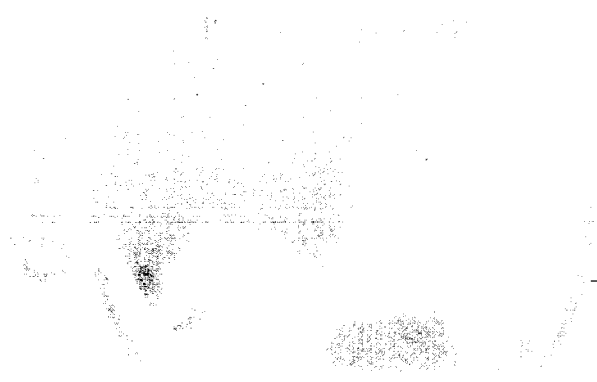
So, what's lacking in the government's approach to child labour?

Policy makers think that child labour is 'a harsh reality', that it is inevitable for poor children to work. So they concentrate on the more 'exploitative' aspects of child labour -the employment of children in 'hazardous', industries like carpet weaving, glass and match factories, for instance. This emphasis takes the attention away from all other aspects, especially the large-scale use of child labour in agriculture. The paucity

of resources is another factor. At international conferences, policy makers often argue that they have limited resources, so they focus on the worst affected children. In other words, it is we who decide which children should be

'mainstreamed'. Actually, all children must go to school. We must **not** make any distinction between different forms of child labour.

(Child's Play, Sarika Jain Antony, X42/TOI. B 28/8/03, X 42)



Annexure 1

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 27th October, 2003

S.O. 1236 (E)- Whereas, the Central Government recognising the need for evolving procedures for the environmental impact assessment of proposed new towns as also laying down broad guidelines for such assessment, constituted an Expert Group which submitted its report during 1989. The Government is implementing various measures for control of pollution from various sources including industrial, domestic, bio-medical wastes etc. Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), the pollution abatement works in 157 towns along 31 rivers in 18 States have been undertaken in addition to Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. Despite these efforts, the sewerage system and sewage treatment capacity already provided under NRCP including the Ganga Action Plan are not adequately maintained by the respective local bodies, resulting in partial achievement of the objectives of NRCP;

And whereas, such projects have adverse impact on environment including wetlands, lakes, rivers and coastal waters posing serious health hazards to the local population including children. Even for construction of a house in a Panchayat area, plans are approved only after the provision of a septic tank. For an industrial project, an effluent treatment plant is necessary and for an industrial estate a common effluent treatment plant is necessary. On the other hand, local bodies/development authorities in towns have been approving new construction projects of various categories and sizes without any concern for the environment;

And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition (C) No. 725 of 1994 with I.A. No.20,21,1207,1183,1216 and 1251 in Writ Petition No.4677 (C) of 1985 in the matter of news item Hindustan Times titled "And Quiet Flows the Maily Yamuna" Vs. Central Pollution Control Board and others, observed on 4th December, 2001, as under:

"The learned Solicitor General submits that in relation to town planning the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 would be applicable and whenever any decision is taken in regard to town planning, environment impact assessment must first be undertaken, clearance obtained and then the decision taken. Unfortunately, the Rules under Environment (Protection) Act as such do not cover town planning. In regard to this aspect, the learned Solicitor General wants to address arguments and give suggestions to the Court as to what effective orders can be passed with a view to prevent the river Yamuna from becoming history. The Central Government should also consider and inform the Court on the next date of hearing whether it should not amend the Rules under the Environment (Protection) Act so as to require the environment impact assessment for the purposes of the town planning Acts."

And whereas, the Central Government took a serious view of continuing pollution of rivers and other water bodies and in order to control further deterioration of water quality in these water bodies, it is felt necessary that new projects relating to construction of new townships, industrial townships, settlement colonies, commercial complexes, hotel complexes, hospitals, office complexes for 1,000 persons and above or discharging sewage of 50,000

litres/day and above or with an investment of Rs. 50 crores and above and new industrial estates having an area of 50 hectares and above and the industrial estates irrespective of area if their pollution potential is high, are proposed to be brought under the purview of Environment Impact Assessment Notification;

And whereas, the proposal shall be subject to the following conditions, namely:

(1) Project proponent intending to implement the proposed project in a phased manner or in modules, shall be required to submit the detailed project report of the entire project covering all phases or modules for appraisal under Environment Impact Assessment.

(2) Project proponent intending to take up projects of very urgent nature during the pendency of the draft Notification shall be required to submit a certificate from the concerned local bodies/authorities with regard to the availability of sewage treatment capacity in their existing sewage treatment plant for incremental quantity to be generated by the project. Such projects can be considered by the Government for environmental clearance on a priority basis on the receipt of the complete proposal with all relevant documents subject to verification of such documents.

(3) New construction projects where construction work has not come up to the plinth level on the date of issue of this draft Notification shall require clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification.

(4) In the case of new Industrial Estates, where the construction work has not commenced or the expenditure does not exceed 25% of the total sanctioned cost on the date of issue of this draft Notification shall require clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification.

(5) In respect of projects covered under Clauses 3 and 4 above, the project proponent shall submit application for

environmental clearance within 30 days of finalization of this draft Notification.

And whereas, by Notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests No. S.O.60(E), dated the 27th January, 1994 the Central Government imposed certain restrictions and prohibitions on the expansion and modernisation of any activity or the undertaking of any project unless environmental clearance has been accorded by the Central Government or the State Government in accordance with the procedure specified therein;

Now, therefore, the following draft amendments to the said Notification, which the Central Government proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft amendments shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette containing the said draft amendments are made available to the public;

Any person desirous of making any objection or suggestion in respect of the said draft amendments may forward the same in writing for consideration of the Central Government within the period so specified to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS

In the said Notification, -

(i) in para 3, after sub-para (f), the following sub-paras shall be inserted, namely :-

“(g) any construction project falling under entry 31 of Schedule-I including new townships, industrial townships, settlement

colonies, commercial complexes, hotel complexes, hospitals, office complexes for 1,000 (one thousand) persons or below or discharging sewage of 50,000 (fifty thousand) litres per day or below or with an investment of Rs.50,00,00,000 (Rupees fifty crores) or below;

(h) any industrial estate falling under entry 32 of Schedule-I including industrial estates accommodating industrial units in an area of fifty hectares or below but excluding the industrial estates irrespective of area if their pollution potential is high;

Explanation. – Any project proponent intending to implement the proposed project under sub-paras (g) and (h) in a phased manner or in modules, shall be required to submit the detailed project report of the entire project covering all phases or modules for appraisal under Environment Impact Assessment Notification”;

(ii) in Schedule-I, after item 30, the following items shall be added namely:-

“ 31. new construction projects

32. new industrial estates”;

(iii) in Schedule-II, in para 5, for sub-para (f), the following sub-para shall be substituted, namely:-

“(f) (i) The quantum of existing industrial effluents and domestic sewage with incremental load to be released in the receiving water body due to the proposed activities along with treatment details;

(ii) The quantum and quality of water in the receiving body before and after disposal of solid wastes including municipal solid wastes, biomedical wastes, hazardous wastes, industrial effluents and domestic sewage;

(iii) The quantum of industrial effluents and domestic sewage to be released on land and type of land”;

(iv) In para 6, for sub-para (a), the following sub-para shall be substituted, namely:-

“(a) Nature and quantity of solid wastes generated including municipal solid wastes, biomedical wastes, hazardous wastes and industrial wastes.”

[No. Z-11011/1/2002-IA-I]

R. Chandra Mohan, Jt. Secy.

Note: The principal Notification was published in the Gazette of India vide number S.O.60 (E) dated 27-1-1994 and subsequently amended vide S.O. 356(E) dated 4th May, 1994, S.O 318 (E), dated 10th April, 1997, S.O. 73(E) dated 27th January, 2000, S.O. 1119 (E) dated the 13th December, 2000, S.O., 737(E) dated 1st August, 2001, SO.O1148 (E) dated 21st November, 2001, S.O. 632 (E) dated the 13th June, 2002, S.O. 248 (E) dated the 28th February, 2003, S.O. 506(E) dated the 7th May, 2003, S.O. 891(E) dated the 4th August, 2003 and S.O. 1087(E) dated the 22nd September, 2003.

(Source: [http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1236\(e\).Doc](http://envfor.nic.in/legis/eia/so1236(e).Doc))

Annexure 2

MESSAGE OF JOHN PAUL II FOR THE 24th WORLD DAY OF TOURISM

(27 September 2003)

1. 27 September we observe the World Day of Tourism, whose theme will be: “*Tourism: an impetus in the fight against poverty, the creation of jobs and social harmony*”. With a view to this important celebration, I would like to propose to everyone, especially the Catholic faithful, some reflections on this topic in the light of the Church’s social teaching and the changes occurring on our Planet, which also affect the tourism sector.

Tourism, in fact, should be considered as a special expression of social life with economic, financial and cultural implications, as well as consequences that are crucial to individuals and peoples. Its direct relationship with the integral development of the person must orient its service, as with other human activities, to building civilization in the most authentic and complete sense, that is, the civilization of love (cf. *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, n. 33).

The next World Day will focus attention on tourism in relation to those pockets of poverty that exist on every continent. The drama of poverty is one of the greatest challenges today, when the rift between the different areas of the world is growing deeper despite the availability of the necessary means to remedy it, for humanity has achieved an extraordinary development in science and technology. It is therefore particularly timely “to reaffirm a principle which is self-evident yet often ignored: our goal should not be the benefit of a privileged few, but rather the improvement of the living conditions of all. Only on this foundation can we build that international order truly marked by justice and solidarity which is the hope of

everyone” (*Message for Lent 2003*, n. 2; *ORE*, 12 February 2003, p. 6).

2. It is impossible to remain indifferent and inert in the face of poverty and underdevelopment. We cannot withdraw into our own selfish interests, abandoning countless brothers and sisters to a wretched plight, and even worse, leaving many of them to meet with a relentless death.

It is vital to find satisfactory economic, financial, technical and political solutions, making use of the creative capacity and generosity that humanity has at its disposal, to put an end to this social and moral scourge. However, as I have had the opportunity to recall on another occasion, “it should not be forgotten that all these measures would be insufficient if they were not inspired by authentic ethical and spiritual values” (Address to the Ambassador of Bolivia, n. 3; *ORE*, 28 June 2000, p. 4).

Tourist activity can play an important role in the fight against poverty, from the financial as well as the social and cultural viewpoints. Travelling provides an opportunity to become acquainted with different places and situations and to realize what a great gap exists between the rich and poor Countries. It is also possible to make a better use of local resources and activities, fostering the involvement of the poorer classes of the population.

The tourist journey or stay is always an encounter with different persons and cultures. Everywhere, but especially in developing Countries, the visitor and the tourist can hardly avoid coming into contact with the painful reality of poverty and hunger. In this case, people must not only resist the temptation to retreat into a sort of “happy cocoon”, distancing themselves

from the social context; rather, they should refrain from profiting from their own privileged position to exploit the “needs” of the locals. May their visit, therefore, be an opportunity for dialogue among persons of equal dignity; may it generate a greater knowledge of the local inhabitants, their history and their culture; and may it prompt sincere openness to an understanding of others that is expressed in concrete gestures of solidarity.

We must work to ensure that the achievement of well-being for a few privileged individuals is never to the detriment of the quality of life of the many others. Here can be applied what I wrote in a more general sense in my Encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* on economic relations: “One must denounce the existence of economic, financial and social mechanisms which, although they are manipulated by people, often function almost automatically, thus accentuating the situation of wealth for some and poverty for the rest.... Later on these mechanisms will have to be subjected to a careful analysis under the ethical-moral aspect” (n. 16).

3. The theme of the next World Day of Tourism reminds us of Jesus’ words: “*Blessed are the poor in spirit...*” (Mt 5: 3), an ever timely invitation to show solidarity to the poor, the hungry and the needy, which challenges believers.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church recalls, “The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ... they express the vocation of the faithful... they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life” (n. 1717). It would be serious if the disciple of Christ were to forget this precisely in his leisure time or during a tourist trip, that is, when he could be dedicating himself to a broader contemplation of the “face of Christ” in the neighbour with whom he comes into contact. When it is the Lord’s teaching that sheds light on life, let us feel bound to ensure that all our activities, including tourist activities, should be an expression

of that “new ‘creativity’ in charity” which makes us close “to those who suffer, so that the hand that helps is seen not as a humiliating handout but as a sharing between brothers and sisters” (Novo Millennio Ineunte, n. 50).

This solidarity is expressed above all in respect for the personal dignity of the local people, their culture and their customs, in a willingness to get to know them through dialogue, aimed at promoting the integral development of each one. On a tourist trip, this attitude becomes yet more demanding the more tangible the differences in civilization, culture, social conditions and religion become.

I warmly hope that tourist activity will always be an effective means of alleviating poverty, of fostering the personal and social growth of individuals and peoples, and of the consolidation of participation and cooperation among nations, cultures and religions.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary protect all those who in their various capacities are involved in the vast sector of tourism and keep them ever sensitive to those who suffer because of poverty, injustice, war and discrimination. Upon each one I invoke an abundance of divine gifts, as I cordially bless you all.

JOHN PAUL II

(http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/tourism/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_20030626_xxiv-giornata-mondiale-turismo_en.html)

Annexure 3

Message From The WTO Secretary-General For World Tourism Day 2003

Tourism: A Driving Force For Poverty Alleviation, Job Creation And Social Harmony

In our apparently wealthy world, poverty still affects four billion people throughout the world, of which two billion are living with less than one dollar a day. It is with this dramatic figure in mind that the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations identifies Poverty Alleviation as one of the most crucial challenges that the international community is facing in the twenty-first century.

By selecting “*Poverty Alleviation*”, “*Job Creation*” and “*Social Harmony*” as the World Tourism Day theme for 2003, our 14th General Assembly firmly expressed its will to fully support one of the key issues stated in the UN Millennium Development Goals and, at the same time, recalled the fundamental role of tourism as a positive instrument towards the reduction of poverty, the creation of job opportunities as well as contributing to social harmony. There is an evident ethical need for tourism to support such goals.

A major sector of the services economy, tourism is increasingly recognized as contributing to social and economic development as well as a beneficial activity for host countries and local communities to combat unemployment by creating direct and indirect jobs.

Tourism can also contribute significantly to rural development, especially in depressed rural areas threatened by the decline of traditional agricultural activities. And it is precisely in rural areas of developing countries where most poor people live. It is in this framework that the World Tourism Organization has been called by the World Summit on Sustainable Development

(WSSD), held last year in Johannesburg, South Africa, to play an increasingly active role in “promoting sustainable tourism development.....in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities”. This central role of WTO will soon be strengthened, as the Organization will become a fullfledged agency of the United Nations.

Thus, WTO has joined forces with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and with other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to implement tourism policies and projects that can assist developing countries, and particularly least developed countries (LDCs) in reducing poverty levels through sustainable tourism. In a year shaken by political turmoil, environmental and natural disasters, international conflicts and new diseases that have affected tourist movements, we are more confident than ever that tourism has the capacity to contribute to the alleviation of some of the main factors which are at the root of such problems, especially extreme poverty and social harmony. We invite all tourism stakeholders, particularly national tourism administrations and the private tourism sector, to strengthen their activities with this new, poverty-reduction focus. We are convinced that they will find numerous ways to combine solidarity with profitability, national tourism growth with employment opportunities for the poor, and long-term business success with socioeconomic sustainability. The World Tourism Organization is available to help them in their efforts.

Madrid, June 2003

Francesco Frangialli

(<http://www.alternativegreece.gr/WebForms/CategoryDisplay.aspx?ID=48>)

Annexure 4

Foreign Tourist Arrivals

Foreign tourist arrivals went up by 22.5% During July 2003 and by 13.1% during January - July 2003. Foreign exchange earnings during the first seven months of 2003 amounted to US\$ 1,910.47 million, a 17.6% increase over January-July 2002 earning of US\$ 1,624.06 million.

	2001	2002	2003
January	283750	228150	278298
February	262306	241133	272688
March	248965	216839	220308
April	185338	185338	167778
May	151098	151098	144860
June	176716	176716	171571
July	224432	224432	218333
Jan-July	1532605	1532605	1473836

Domestic Tourist Arrivals

Month	Tourist arrivals in 2003	% chg over 2002
June	1,71,571	27.5
July	2,18,333	22.5
August	2,00,803	23.5
September	1,89,999	16.5
October	2,46,110	15.4

Source: Department of Tourism, Govt. of India

<i>Tourism sector back with a bang in 2003</i>					
	Foreign	Tourist	Arrivals	Percentage	Change
Month	2001	2002	2003	2002/01	2003/02
January	2,83,750	2,28,150	2,78,298	-19.6	22.0
February	2,62,306	2,41,133	2,72,688	-8.1	13.1
March	2,48,965	2,16,839	2,20,308	-12.9	1.6
April	1,85,338	1,59,789	1,67,778	-13.8	5.0
May	1,51,098	1,44,571	1,44,860	-4.3	0.2
June	1,76,716	1,34,566	1,71,571	-23.9	27.5
July	2,25,432	1,78,231	2,18,333	-20.6	22.5
August	1,96,517	1,62,594	2,00,803	-17.3	23.5
September	1,62,326	1,63,089	1,89,999	0.5	16.5
October	1,81,605	2,13,267	2,46,110	17.4	15.4
November	2,09,685	2,45,661	2,81,527	17.2	14.6
December	2,54,544	2,96,474	3,58,015	16.5	20.8
Total	25,37,282	23,84,364	27,50,290	-6.0	15.3

After suffering a major setback in 2002, the fortunes of the tourism sector shone in 2003 with foreign exchange earnings increasing by a whopping Rs. 2,855 crores (23.3 per cent) to Rs. 17,050 crore compared to Rs. 14,195 crore earned in the previous year. Foreign tourist arrivals increased by 15.3 per cent to 27.5 lakh during the year.

Tourism experts are hopeful that the trend is going to continue in 2004 as well and the flow of tourists is going to be on the rise.

In 2002, foreign tourist arrivals had declined by 6 per cent to 23.8 lakh against a total of 25.37 lakh foreign tourists visiting the country in 2001. (*Tourism Sector Back with Bang in 2003, F.E.B., 7/1/04, C 24*)

Annexure 5

NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY

1. The Preamble

Tourism emerged as the largest global industry of the 20th century and is projected to grow even faster in the 21st century. India has immense possibilities of growth in the tourism sector with vast cultural and religious heritage, varied natural attractions, but a comparatively small role in the world tourism scene. A New Tourism Policy, which builds on the strength of the national Tourism Policy of 1982, but which envisages new initiatives towards making tourism the catalyst in employment generation, environmental re-generation, development of remote areas and development of women and other disadvantaged groups in the country, besides promoting social integration is, therefore, vital to our economy. *It would lead to larger foreign exchange earnings and create conditions for more Foreign Direct Investment.*

2. The Mission

Our mission is to promote sustainable tourism as a means of economic growth and social integration and to promote the image of India abroad as a country with a glorious past, a vibrant present and a bright future. Policies to achieve this will be evolved around six broad areas such as Welcome (swagat), Information (suchana), Facilitation (suvidha), Safety (suraksha), Cooperation (Sahyog) and Infrastructure Development (Samrachana). Conservation of heritage, natural environments, etc., and *development and promotion of tourist products would also be given importance.*

3. Objectives

The objectives of tourism development are to foster understanding between people, to create employment opportunities and bring about socio-economic benefits to the

community, particularly in the interior and remote areas and to strive towards balanced and sustainable development and preserve, enrich and promote India's cultural heritage. One of the major objectives is the preservation and protection of natural resources and environment to achieve sustainable development.

Given the low cost of employment creation in the tourism sector and the low level of exploitation of India's tourism potential, the new tourism policy seeks to expand foreign tourist arrivals and facilitate domestic tourism in a manner that is sustainable by ensuring that possible adverse effects such as cultural pollution and degradation of environment are minimised.

The New Tourism Policy also aims at making the stay of foreign tourists in India, a memorable and pleasant one with reliable services at predictable costs, so that they are encouraged to undertake repeated visits to India, as friends. This would be in tune with India's traditional philosophy of giving the highest honour to a guest (Atithi devo bhava).

4. Tourism A Multi-Dimensional Activity

(a) The Government will aim to achieve necessary linkages and synergies in the policies and programmes of all concerned Departments/agencies by establishing effective co-ordination mechanisms at Central, State and District levels. The focus of national policy, therefore, will also be to develop tourism as a common endeavour of all the agencies vitally concerned with it at the Central and State levels, public sector undertakings and the private sector.

(b) It will be the policy of government to encourage peoples participation in tourism development including Panchayati Raj institutions, local bodies, Co-operatives,

non-governmental organisations and enterprising local youth to create public awareness and to achieve a wider spread of tourist facilities. However, focussed attention will be given for the integrated development of identified centres with well directed public participation.

(c) Public and Private Sector Partnership:

A constructive and mutually beneficial partnership between the public and the private sectors through all feasible means is an absolute necessity for the sustained growth of tourism. It is, therefore, the policy of the Government to encourage emergence of such a partnership. This will be achieved by creating a Tourism Development Authority consisting of senior officials of the Government and tourism experts and professionals from the private sector.

(d) Role of the Government :

Tourism is a multi-sectoral activity and the industry is affected by many other sectors of the national economy. The State has to, therefore, ensure intergovernmental linkages and co-ordination. It also has to play a pivotal role in tourism management and promotion. The specific role of the Government will be to:-

- Provide basic infrastructural facilities including local planning and zoning arrangements.
- Plan tourism development as a part of the over all area development strategy.
- Create nucleus infrastructure in the initial stages of development to demonstrate the potential of the area.
- Provide the required support facilities and incentives to both domestic and foreign investors to encourage private investment in the tourism sector.
- Rationalise taxation and land policies in the tourism sector in all the States and Union Territories and in respect of land owned by Government agencies like Railways.

■ Introduce regulatory measures to ensure social, cultural and environmental sustainability as well as safety and security of tourists.

■ Ensure that the type and scale of tourism development is compatible with the environment and socio-cultural milieu of the area.

■ Ensure that the local community is fully involved and the benefits of tourism accrue to them.

■ Facilitate availability of trained manpower particularly from amongst the local population jointly with the industry.

■ Undertake research, prepare master plans, and facilitate formulation of marketing strategies.

■ Organise overseas promotion and marketing jointly with the industry.

■ Initiate specific measures to ensure safety and security of tourists and efficient facilitation services.

■ Facilitate the growth of a dynamic tourism sector.

(e) Role of Private Sector :

Tourism has emerged as the largest export industry globally and all over the globe private sector has played the lead role in this growth. The private sector has to consider investment in tourism from a long term perspective and create the required facilities including accommodation, time share, restaurants, entertainment facilities, shopping complexes, etc. in areas identified for tourism development. Non-core activities in all airports, major stations and interstate bus terminus such as cleanliness and maintenance, luggage transportation, vehicles parking facilities, etc. should be opened up to private operators to increase efficiency and profitability. The specific role of the Private Sector will be to:-

■ Build and manage the required tourist facilities in all places of tourist interest.

- Assume collective responsibility for laying down industry standards, ethics and fair practices.
- Ensure preservation and protection of tourist attractions and give lead in green practices.
- Sponsor maintenance of monuments, museums and parks and provision of public conveniences and facilities.
- Involve the local community in tourism projects and ensure that the benefits of tourism accrue to them in right measure.
- Undertake industry training and manpower development to achieve excellence in quality of services.
- Participate in the preparation of investment guidelines and marketing strategies and assist in database creation and research.
- Facilitate safety and security of tourists
- Endeavour to promote tourism on a sustained and long term perspective.
- Collaborate with Govt. in the promotion and marketing of destinations.

(f) Role of voluntary efforts :

Voluntary agencies and volunteers have to contribute their expertise and understanding of local ethos to supplement the efforts of other sectors to provide the human touch to tourism and foster local initiatives. All such efforts shall be encouraged.

5. Tourism Development Fund and Resources for Development

It would be the policy of the Government to facilitate larger flow of funds to tourism infrastructure and to create a Tourism Development Fund to bridge critical infrastructural gaps. Priority would be given for development of tourist infrastructure in selected areas of tourist importance and for those products which are considered to be in demand in the existing and future markets so that limited resources are put to the best use.

6. Foreign Investments and Incentives and Rationalization of Taxes

(a) In view of large investment requirements in the tourism sector and the need for maintaining high quality standards in services, hotels and tourism related industries will continue to be in the priority list of industries for foreign investment. Export-house status has been accorded to Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Tourist Transport Operators vide Notification No.33(RE-98)1997-2002 dated 26.11.98 of the Ministry of Commerce. The status needs to be extended to all tourism units irrespective of the annual turnover.

(b) In order to off-set the specific constraints of tourism industry and to put in place the required infrastructure as quickly as possible, particularly in less developed areas, appropriate incentive schemes would be considered. It would also be the endeavour of the Government to persuade the State/UT Governments to rationalise taxes, to put a cap of 20% on all taxes taken together on the accommodation and hospitality units, to allocate suitable land for tourism purposes at reasonable prices, harmonize movement of tourist transport across State borders, etc.

7. Adoption of New Technologies

■ Efforts will be made to adopt the technological advances in the tourism sector to provide better facilities to tourists and to market the tourism product, to the benefit of all concerned.

■ Information technology shall be given the pride of place in the efforts to promote Indian tourism. Every endeavour in this regard would increasingly rely on optimising the use of e-commerce/m-commerce, use of internet for dissemination of tourism related information, increasing use of portals as gateway to accessibility to tourism information, development of Handy Audio Reach Kit (HARK) Tourist Guidance System at important monuments and heritage sites, networking of States,

setting of tourist information Kiosks, encouragement to information technology and eco-friendly practices by the private industries and above all keeping abreast with the global technologies for promoting and facilitating tourism. It shall be ensured that Information Technology(IT) and Indian Tourism(IT) become synonymous.

■ The Central Government will set up a Paryatan Bhawan in New Delhi as a modern Tourist Interpretation Centre to cater to various needs of travelers, foreign as well as domestic and to offer facilities for air and train reservation, money changing counters and information about all tourist centres in the country. The Centre will be equipped with e-connectivity and networking facility to all state tourist offices. Efforts will be made to have similar state level Paryatan Bhawans in state Capitals.

The economic and social benefits of tourism and its importance as an instrument of economic growth have to be fully recognised by all sections of the society. It would, therefore, be the endeavour of the Government to bridge the information gap through proper statistical documentation of the impact of tourism and its wide publicity to create awareness so that the economic and social significance of tourism is well recognised and tourism is given due attention and national priority.

8. Safety and Security

The safety and security of tourists are of primary importance both from the point of view of tourism development and the national pride. It will be, therefore, given high priority in the national strategy for tourism development. Central Government will take up with the State Government to enact suitable legislation on travel trade/tourist police for protection and security of tourists and for providing institutional mechanism to deal with complaints received from tourists and the industry so as to create a better security perception amongst actual and potential visitors.

9. Facilitation Services

Tourists have to pass through several Government agencies so as to meet the requirements under various laws. These include obtaining visas, undergoing immigration checks, obtaining permits to visit certain areas, payment of fees for certain facilities, etc. The endeavour of the Government would be to improve efficiency in providing such facilitation services and make travel to and within India a pleasant experience. Introduction of issue of Visa on arrival at least for 15 days at all the airports, computerisation of the system of issue of Visa, streamlining of luggage handling system at airports improving tourist facilitation services at the airports by adopting technological solutions are some of the important facilitation services proposed in this regard.

10. Tourism Economic Zone, Tourist Circuits, Special Tourism Area and Areas of Special Interests

(a) Tourism Economic Zones will be created with private participation based on the intrinsic attractions, potential for development and availability of resources in these zones. Air, road and rail connectivity to these areas will be established to facilitate direct and easy access to these zones from international and domestic destinations. Adequate backward and forward linkages will also be established to ensure flow of benefits to the local community. The development of such zones will be guided by well conceived Master Plans and executed by specific Tourism Development Authorities which will be created by the Government involving senior officers from the Department of Tourism, and other relevant Ministries/ Departments of the Govt. of India, professionals from tourism industry and representatives of Industry & Trade Associations

(b) India with vast cultural and religious heritage and varied natural attractions has immense potential of growth in the

tourism sector. 25 travel circuits and destinations have already been identified for development through joint efforts of the Central Govt., the State Governments and the private sector. State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Maharashtra and Union Territory Administration of Daman & Diu have also declared Bekal Beach, Puri-Konark, Sindhudurg, Muttakadu-Mamallapuram and Diu as Special Tourism Area for integrated development. Steps will be taken to work towards the integrated development of all the tourist circuits of the country with the involvement of all the infrastructural departments, State Governments and the private sector.

(c) Areas of Special Interest :

Government would initiate and support special programmes and schemes for the development of tourism in North Eastern States, Himalayan region and island States/U.Ts with a view to achieve overall economic development of the regions, and as part of the strategy for removing regional imbalances.

11. Sustainable Development and Perspective Plans

The principle of sustainable development stipulates that the level of development does not exceed the carrying capacity of the area. *It will be governments' policy to ensure adherence to such limits through appropriate planning instruments, guidelines and enabling regulations and their enforcement. Efforts will be made to diversify the tourism products in such a way that it supplements the main stream of cultural tourism.* Comprehensive perspective plans for developing sustainable tourism by assessing the existing tourism scenario in each State/Union Territory with respect to availability of natural resources, heritage and other socio-cultural assets, quantitative/demographic factors like population, employment, occupation, income levels etc, services and infrastructure will be developed by initiating immediate action in this direction.

12. Conservation and Development

Tourism development needs to be properly guided and regulated to avoid adverse impact on the natural environment and cultural heritage, which constitute the tourist attraction. A judicious balance needs to be maintained between conservation and development. *Government will continue its policy of trying to maintain balance through planning restrictions and by educating the people in appreciating their rich heritage and by eliciting their co-operation in preserving and protecting it.*

13. Promotions and Marketing

Promotion and marketing is an important component of tourism development and needs to be undertaken along with product development in conformity with consumer profiles and product characteristics. *The policy of the Government therefore will be to develop and implement cost effective marketing strategies based on market research and segmentation analysis in each of the tourist generating countries.*

14. International Co-operation

Tourism is a global industry requiring inputs from various international agencies and collaborations with other countries. The policy of the Government therefore will be to foster positive win – win partnership with all the international agencies and other countries.

15. Professional Excellence

Tourism being a service industry it is necessary to enhance its service efficiency. *The new policy will strive towards excellence by introducing professionalism through training and re-training of human resources and providing memorable visitor experience to both domestic and international tourists.*

16. Placing Tourism in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India

Tourism as a separate subject does not find a place in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India even though a number of its components are either in the Union List or in the State List or in the

Concurrent List. Under the new Policy, Tourism will be placed in the Concurrent List as such a step will provide a Constitutional recognition to the tourism sector and help in channelising development of tourism in a systematic manner by enabling the Central Government to bring in legislation governing the activities of various service providers in the tourism sector - 11. It has emerged that the domestic drugs and pharmaceuticals industry needs reorientation in order to meet the challenges and harness opportunities arising out of the liberalisation of the economy and the impending advent of the product patent regime. It has been decided that the span of price control over drugs and pharmaceuticals would be reduced substantially. However, keeping in view the interest of the weaker sections of the society, it is proposed that the Government will retain the power to intervene comprehensively in cases where prices behave abnormally.

Annexure 6

CANCUN CONCLAVE: A new sunrise for developing countries

By Benny Kuruwilla

Peoples Reporter Vol 16, No: 18, Mumbai (September 25-October 10 2003)

As tired trade delegates and jubilant protestors left the Mexican resort of Cancun after the collapse of the World Trade Organisations 5th ministerial conference (September 10-14, 2003) it signaled an important shift in power equations in the 148 member organisation. When a massive grouping of African, Asian, Caribbean and Least developed countries refused to kowtow the diktats of the EU (European Union) and the US, leading to the breakdown of talks on the last day, the significance of this combined act of defiance was not lost to many. The World Bank chief James Wolfensohn said the Cancun alliance marked the creation of a “new paradigm in global financial relations for the 21st century” that empowers developing countries against the rich industrial nations. Developing countries, comprising two thirds of the organizations membership, led the show at Cancun, putting aside significant differences to form strong alliances (which to the surprise of many stood the test of time and pressure) and submitted well researched and technically sound negotiating proposals.

From Doha to Cancun:

Trade ministers make up the highest decision making body of the WTO and are expected to meet at least once every two years; Cancun was the fifth in the series of ministerial meetings that began with the 1996 Singapore ministerial. After the failure of the 1999 Seattle ministerial, the 2001 Doha ministerial succeeded in launching an ambitious work programme

called the Doha Development Agenda. Though developing countries were reluctant to launch a new round of complex negotiations, Robert Zoellick, the United States Trade Representative and the European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy successfully used the sympathy wave post the September 2001 terrorist attacks to successfully argue that the failure to advance trade negotiations in Doha would be a boost to terrorism. Doha mandated key negotiations on Agriculture, Services and TRIPS (Agreement on Trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)

Cancun was to mark an important stop on the road to completing the ambitious Doha round of negotiations, which supposedly put development at the core of its agenda. But in the path from Doha to Cancun, negotiators in Geneva (at the WTO headquarters) missed every major deadline. By failing to make adequate progress on issues the developing countries believed constituted a genuine development round what was a routine fuelling station became a landmine.

The Hypocrisy:

The question of agricultural reform was the most contentious issue at Cancun. It is now well documented that while developing countries made substantive liberalisation commitments, farm subsidies in the EU and the US have actually increased since the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture came into effect. Economists at the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) recently estimated that while the EU provides a daily subsidy of US \$ 2.7 per cow, half of India's population live on less than \$ 2 a day. This hypocrisy allows countries like the EU to both protect its farm sector and dump its subsidised products in developing country markets. Not

surprisingly the removal of quantitative restrictions in April 2001 (following WTO stipulations) in agricultural commodities has been devastating for India's small farmers. Before Cancun, the European Union and the United States set up a common negotiating framework to revive the stalled talks on agricultural liberalisation. Developing countries immediately responded by critiquing it as failing on all three counts of reducing domestic support, improving market access for developing countries and phasing out export subsidies. Further they formed the G-22, which comprised several leading developing countries such as China, India, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa, and submitted a counter proposal for agricultural reform as opposed to the paper submitted by the EU and the US.

Addressing a packed press conference on the opening day of the ministerial Brazilian minister Celso Amorim speaking on behalf of the group, emphasized that their cause was a just one as they represented 50% of the world's population and over 65% of farmers.

A group of four Western and Central African countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Benin and Mali) also submitted a well-crafted joint initiative on Cotton calling for the total elimination of cotton subsidies by developed countries and financial compensation for lost income while the subsidies were being phased out. Cotton growers are among the most heavily subsidised farmers in the US, receiving more than \$3 billion a year in subsidies, according to the World Bank.

Singapore issues:

Another potential battle loomed in Cancun over what is termed as the four Singapore issues. Since the 1996 Singapore ministerial the EU and other developed countries have been trying to create new WTO rules on: Investment, Competition policy, Government procurement and trade facilitation. Since then developing countries

have consistently opposed the creation of a new set of complex agreements on these issues. At the 2001 Doha ministerial India's then Commerce Minister Murasoli Maran was widely credited with ensuring that any decision would need to be taken by 'explicit consensus' from all member countries of the WTO at the Cancun ministerial. On the second day of the conference, in a defiant show of strength, a group of 70 developing countries held a press conference reiterating their opposition to the launch of a new round of negotiations on the Singapore issues. The Malaysian Minister for International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz and Indian Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley even formally presented a letter on behalf of these countries to the facilitator of the working group on Singapore issues stating that the clarificatory process in Geneva should continue.

Fundamentally flawed:

It was expected that the united and professional approach of the developing countries would be reflected in the draft, which would form the basis for the Cancun Ministerial declaration. But the document released on 13 September by the facilitators of the five working groups was fundamentally flawed; it showed that the views expressed by the EU and US on virtually all issues prevailed.

On agricultural reform, the draft through a means of cynical legal jugglery allowed the EU and the US to continue with their domestic subsidies by simply shifting them from the trade distorting section to the non-trade-distorting one. On the issue of market access the developing countries were subjected to even more tariff reductions. On the crucial issue of elimination of export subsidies provided by developed countries there was no date mentioned for their elimination. Addressing the press immediately after his formal response to the draft at the Heads of Delegation meeting Mr. Arun Jaitley did not hide his disappointment, "Instead of being sensitive

to the concerns of developing and least developed countries this draft indicates that the special and differential treatment in favour of developed countries has been allowed to continue”.

Even the cotton initiative, which received overwhelming support from both developed and developing countries, was ignored.

Final Collapse:

The most bitterly contested insertion in the new draft was the proposal to launch negotiations on three of the Singapore issues, in particular on the highly controversial issue of Investment.

Ministers then entered into the final lap of round the clock negotiations in an attempt to find enough common ground to avert total failure. But Asian and African countries were determined to hold onto their principled positions and the meeting finally collapsed during the final session on 14 September when the EU and the US continued to push a draft that did not give anything meaningful on agriculture but mandated negotiations on three of the Singapore issues.

Undemocratic:

Speaking to the press after the collapse Ugandan delegate Yash Tandon was furious, “The assumption made by the EU and the US was that within about two or three days they can just carry out rapid decisions for everybody. They wanted a text passed that was profoundly biased – The process of arriving at this draft has been opaque and undemocratic - this text is unacceptable to us because it condemns millions of Africans to perpetual underdevelopment and abject poverty”.

“We are indeed disappointed with this result. The Caribbean countries came united to Cancun with a very positive agenda to get a fair deal for our farmers. Nothing was offered to us. Nearly 70 countries said they were unwilling to launch negotiations on the Singapore issues i.e.

there was no explicit consensus. Despite this, the draft we were discussing this morning mandated negotiations on three of them. I cannot understand how issues not on the agenda can take precedence. The way the WTO is managed leaves a lot to be desired,” said Minister George of Saint Lucia speaking on behalf of the Caribbean countries.

A victory for the developing world:

Addressing the press the Indian Commerce minister Arun Jaitley said, “Success cannot be judged on the ability of getting or not getting a declaration. The fact that the ministerial did not pass a statement that did not enjoy a consensus is indeed a victory for the developing world. The draft text clearly did not reflect the aspirations of the developing and LDCs”.

Instead of the Ministerial declaration that would have mandated a work programme and set deadlines for completion of negotiations the ministers issued a one-page statement admitting failure and their resolve to go back to Geneva and try to iron out differences.

A watershed:

Success at Cancun would have meant a mockery of both developing countries and the so-called Doha development agenda. Cancun’s blockade does not mean the end of the road either for the WTO or for the Doha round or for the dominant neo-liberal paradigm that governs international trade today. But Cancun will remain a watershed in the history of the WTO; it marks a new dynamic to the organisation, standing as a useful reminder to the EU and the US that the views of developing countries can no longer be ignored.

Annexure 7

Incoming materials (July-December 2003)

Books

- Granta Travel, Penguin Publisher
- International Tourism, Sterling Publishers Ltd.
- Tourism in the 21st Century, Continuum
- Visas of Sustainability, ATLAS, Volume 2
- Cooperating for sustainable tourism, Kasperek Verlag
- CONTOURS - Volume 1, Economical Coalition on Third World Tourism
- CONTOURS - Volume 1, Economical Coalition on Third World Tourism
- Directory of Alternative travel resources, Dianne. G. Brause
- India: Tourism Heritage, Dianne. G. Brause
- Experience a thousand Delights, ITDC
- Poverty through tourism, Goyal publishers
- Competition Policy & Law made easy, CUTS
- Where Communities Care, Ashish B. Neema, Farhad
- Water Atlas of Kerala, CWRDM, Kozhikode
- The law relating to protection of coastal areas, P.B.Strasranaman
- Pelagic Sharks in the Indian Seas, P.P. Pillai & Biju Parakal
- Motorization of country craft in Kerala, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.
- Statistical Bulletin of Fisheries, Directorate of Fisheries, Government of India
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- Seeds of Protest, Public Interest Research Group
- Guidelines for implementation of new tourism policy, Government of Karnataka
- Coastal Ecosystems of the Karnataka State, Ananda Rao & Dr. A.N. Sherieff
- Tourism Statistics, 1999-2000, department of Government of Kerala
- The Tamil Nadu District Development Councils Act 1958, Government of Tamil Nadu
- The Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1994, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Social Welfare Policy Note 2000-2001, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh: Vision 2020 over view, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Tourism Policy 2052, Department of Tourism
- Financial upheaval in East Asian Countries, Aung San Suukyi
- The Third world in the age of globalization, CUTS
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- Uttaranchal Panchayat Raj Act, PLAN
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- Right of Women in India, Socio-legal Aid Research Centre

- National Consultation of women in Governance, National Commission for Women
- Directory on Panchayat Raj and Women in India, UNIFEM

Reports

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- Biodiversity and Tourism, Berlin declaration
- Convention on Biological Diversity, UNEP
- India Infrastructure Report 2002, 3 I Network
- Approach paper to the 10th Five Year Plan 2002-07
- Economic Survey 2001-2002, Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Economic Division
- Who's Who's in WATA, WATA
- WWF India, Areas Programme, Ministry of Environment and Forest
- Challenge of HIV AIDS in the work place, UNAIDS
- Save our sisters, save the children in India
- Child Sex Tourism in ASIA, Children Ombudsman 1996
- Environment Outlooks, UNEP
- CMFRI-Bulletin 30 - A
- Mud banks of Kerala Coast, CMFRI-bulletin 31
- Eco Labelling and Stainable fisheries, Carolyn Deere
- Sea Turtle Research and Conversation, CMFRI
- Economics of the indigenous fishing units at Cochin, CMFRI special publication
- Forestry in Karnataka, Karnataka Forest Department
- Seminar on role of voluntary organization in development of Karnataka, National institute of public cooperation and child development.
- Karnataka Tourism Annual Report, Karnataka Tourism, Government of Karnataka
- Tourism Vision 2025 (Draft) EQUATIONS
- Participatory Approach, EQUATIONS
- Periyar Tiger Reserve, Dr. Amit Mallick, IFS & Dr. A. Veeramani
- Tourism Carrying Capacity Study, World Tourism Organisation
- Infrastructure Development Action Plan for Chattisgarh-Final Report
- Reforms and marginalized communities, Samajik Nyay, Prathisthan
- Carrying capacity based developmental planning for implementation of Master Tourism Plan in Andaman Islands, UN Development Programme, New Delhi
- Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Srilanka.
- World Forum on Globalization and Trade, Arad NGO Network for Development.
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- Human Trafficking in South Asia, PRAYAS
- Reaching Out, National Commission of Women
- The Fallen learn to Rise, DMSC
- A step towards a new horizon, Institute of social work.
- A practical guide to good practice, Tour operators initiative

- Integrating Biodiversity into the Tourism Sector, Hector Ceballor Lascurain
- Livelihoods, Lifestyles, Biodiversity, TWG
- Coastal Regulation Zone Notification and its amendments, EQUATIONS
- The Convention on the rights of the child, UNICEF
- Orientation course for representatives of voluntary organisation on promotion of child rights
- A report on problems and Prospects of Palace on Wheels in Karnataka
- Sustainable Development in Dynamic World

Indian Tourism: Current Issues

A Statement of Concern

As EQUATIONS enters its 19th year of experience and existence in critiquing tourism issues in India, it is challenged by several concerns on the horizon today, a scenario that is likely to persist and extend in both magnitude and implications as we approach the 21st century.

Towards a Critique: Some Statements

In the context of neo-colonisation

- Tourism has to be viewed in the context of a development model which has a political character;
- Tourism development has taken place along with increase elitism, authoritarianism, militarism and various forms of state repression in different parts of the World: all of these are threats to the culture, economy and empowerment of communities;
- Tourism development along with globalisation process threatens the sovereignty of a nation (in the broadest definition of nation);
- Tourism eulogises a certain consumptive and luxurious lifestyle which is unsustainable by any means;
- Tourism promotes net outflow of capital to global market economy especially to the so called development nations;
- Tourism is based on the objectifies view of the world where beaches, sanctuaries and so on are seen as objects of pleasure which negates the sanctity of the objects as well as of possible meaningful relationships between peoples and their environment.

Our vision for Tourism

An EQUATION seeks a world where wealth, resources and benefits are much more equitably distributed between North and South. Our vision of tourism fits within that framework. While there is no one transposable model which will work in all situations, we are working towards tourism which

- **Bring economic benefits directly to all segments of the host community, particularly including women and indigenous people;**

- Is subject to local, democratic control, so that communities are making their own decisions about how tourism should be permitted and regulated;
- Is integrated into other community activities, so that it is culturally appropriate and sensitive to the inequities between hosts and guests;
- Enriches both host (economically, developmentally and in terms of control) and guests (culturally, recreationally).

This is in contrast to many current tourism models, which are imposed from the North, requires the extensive use of imports, is overly commercialized, and reinforced inequities rather than challenges them.

EQUATIONS sees tourism not as a means to bring Southern communities into the Northern mainstream, but rather as one of the way to work towards a more just world.

What we do

The varying roles that EQUATIONS plays includes advocacy, center for information resources, educator, watchdog, helping hand, publisher and producer of materials.

At the local level

- Focus on a particular place or issue
- Documents the tourism movement itself
- Conduct survey with local groups
- Produce background materials on particular situations
- Facilitate scientific research on environmental and related issues.

At the national level

- EQUATIONS identifies itself as an Indian group, not a global one
- EQUATIONS historical role is as a pioneer who put tourism on the agenda of the national development debate
- EQUATION provides research and publications and is a resources center.

At the international level

- Provide direct support for local action in South Asia
- Provide resources and information for local action elsewhere develop training and seminars for groups worldwide

- Participate integrally in the new global tourism structure when it emerges.

Information Collection and Dissemination

- Collaborate with local groups to collect information/inform them about parameters and standards
- Produce brief fact sheets in Basis English so they can readily be translated, and some in local languages
- Produce guidelines for assessing tourism from different perspectives

Lobbying

- Make the concerns and interest of local communities visible
- Empower them to lobby for themselves and training
- Offer workshops on fundamental tourism issues
- Provide “how to” sessions on: participatory research, communications (including how to publish a newsletter and present audiovisual programs), options for strategy (including legal options)
- Tailor each subject to the particular groups situation and priorities.

Monitoring

- Learn about hotels entering India, including their investments, corporate behavior elsewhere, and structures.
- Monitor tourism policy, and legislation when will affect tourism issues
- Network with others who can be “eyes and ears”
- Follow global development that affect tourism
- Produce an annual audit showing how tourism in India is faring, from a critical perspective.

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Sources Index

AAD	<i>Asian Age, Delhi</i>
AAB	<i>Asian Age, Bangalore</i>
BL.B	<i>Business Line, Bangalore</i>
BL.C	<i>Business Line, Chennai</i>
BL.D	<i>Business Line, Delhi</i>
BS.D	<i>Business standards, Delhi</i>
DH.B	<i>Deccan Herald, Bangalore</i>
ET.B	<i>Economic Times, Bangalore</i>
ET.C	<i>Economic Times, Chennai</i>
EHC	<i>Express Hotelier and Caterer</i>
ETT	<i>Express Travel and Tourism</i>
FE.B	<i>Financial Express, Bangalore</i>
FE.D	<i>Financial Express, Delhi</i>
GT.G	<i>Gomatak, Goa</i>
GN.G	<i>Goan Times, Goa</i>
HT.D	<i>Hindustan Times, Delhi</i>
HE.G	<i>The Herald, Goa</i>
IE.C	<i>Indian Express, Chennai</i>
IE.D	<i>Indian Express, Delhi</i>
NT.G	<i>Navhind Times, Goa</i>
TOI.B	<i>Times of India, Bangalore</i>
TOI.D	<i>Times of India, Delhi</i>
TOI.M	<i>Times of India, Mumbai</i>
TH.B	<i>The Hindu, Bangalore</i>
TH.B	<i>The Hindu, Bhuvaneshwar</i>
TH.C	<i>The Hindu, Chennai</i>
TH.D	<i>The Hindu, Delhi</i>
TH.O	<i>The Hindu, Orissa</i>
TP	<i>Travel Plus</i>

Readers are welcome to write to us for any of the material listed in the Update, though we request contribution towards photocopy and mailing expenses. The data at the end of each item indicates the sources. Please refer the source index for abbreviations used.

EQUATIONS (Equitable Tourism Options) seek to situate the tourism critique within the overall development debate. Our activities include documentation, publications, research and supporting individuals and group involved in concerted action on tourism issues.

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 G50 Coastal Constructions, urbanisation, land acquisition
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 G51 Coastal Highways
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 G80 Coastal and Sea Pollution (General)
 G90 Coastal tourism

H - HILL AND MOUNTAIN REGIONS

H00 Hill and Mountain Regions of India (General)
 H03 Hill Economy
 H04 Urbanisation in hill regions
 H10 Hill Tourism (General)
 H11 Hill Stations
 H12 Hotel Industry in hill regions
 H20 Nilgiris (General)
 H21 Wild Life Sanctuaries in the Nilgiris biosphere
 H22 Communities in the Nilgiris
 H23 Nilgiris Economy
 H24 Urbanisation, land use and infrastructure in Nilgiris
 H30 Himalayas (General)
 H31 Wild Life Sanctuaries in the Himalayan biosphere
 H32 Communities in the Himalayas
 H33 Himalayan Economy
 H34 Urbanisation, land use, infrastructure in Himalayas

K - KARNATAKA

K00 KARNATAKA - Land and People
 K10 Policy, Economy
 K11 Planning
 K12 Infrastructure, power
 K13 Multinationals
 K20 Environment and environment issues, forests, mining, quarrying in Karnataka
 K30 Non-tourism Issues, Movements in Karnataka (General)
 K31 Peoples movements
 K32 Indigenous people (Adivasi)

Movements/self rule)

K33 Child labour

K34 Bangalore

K40 Karnataka Tourism Policy and plans

K50 Tourism/Tourism issues in

Karnataka - General

K51 Coastal tourism

K52 Child prostitution (tourism related)

K53 Heritage Tourism

K54 Culture tourism

K55 Eco/wildlife tourism- national parks

and sanctuaries

K56 Nagarhole

K57 Hill tourism

K58 Special Tourism Areas (STAs)

K59 Golf Tourism

L - KERALA

L00 KERALA - Land and People

L10 Policy, Economy

L11 Planning - including People's plan

L12 Infrastructure

L13 Multinationals

L20 Environment and Environment

issues in Kerala

L30 Non-tourism Issues, Movements in

Kerala (General)

L31 Peoples movements

L32 Indigenous people (Adivasi

Movements/political struggles)

L40 Kerala Tourism policy and plans

L41 Anti tourism Movements/

Organisations

L50 Tourism/Tourism issues in Kerala

(General)

L51 Coastal Tourism

L51a Backwater Tourism

L51b Kovalam, Varkala,

Kottukal

L52 Pilgrim Tourism

L52a Sabarimala

L54 Culture Tourism

L55 Eco - Wild Life Tourism

L56 Wayanad

L57 Hill Tourism

L58 Special Tourism Area-Bekal

M - TAMIL NADU

M00 Tamil Nadu - Land and People

M10 Policy, Economy

M11 Planning

M12 Infrastructure

M13 Multinationals

M20 Environment and Environment

Issues in Tamil Nadu

M30 Non-tourism Issues, Movements in

Tamil Nadu (General)

M31 People's movements

M32 Indigenous people (Adivasi

Movements)

M40 Tamil Nadu Tourism policy and

plans

M41 Anti tourism Movements/

Organisations

M50 Tourism issues in Tamil Nadu

M51 Coastal tourism

M53 Heritage Tourism

M55 Eco- Wildlife Tourism

M57 Hill Tourism

M57a Gooty

M57b Kodaikanal

M58 Special Tourism Areas (STAs)

In Tamil Nadu - Mamallapuram,

Kancheepuram,

Tharangambadi

M59 Golf tourism

N00 ANHRA PRADESH

P00 GOA

Q00 NORTH EASTERN STATES

SOTHER STATES

S00 States (General) including Southern

S10 Eastern India - Orissa, West Bengal

S20 North India- UP, Bihar, HP, MP

S21 JK

S30 Western India - Maharashtra,

Rajasthan, Gujarat

S40 Union Territories- Pondichery

T - FOREIGN COUNTRIES

T00 International Tourism Volumes and

Patterns (General)

T10 South Asia

T20 South East Asia

T30 Communist Asia

T40 Middle East/West /Central Asia

T50 Africa

T60 Europe

T70 North America

T80 Caribbean/Central and Latin

America U International Economy

T90 Pacific

U - INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

U00 International Economy (General),
globalisation, structural adjustment -
impact, critique, alternatives, case
studies

U20 International Economy,

Statistics/Foreign exchange markets

U30 GATT/World Trade Organisation

U31 GATS

U40 International Aid (Bilateral)

U41 World Bank

U42 IMF

U43ADB

U50 UN (and related organisations)

X - CULTURE and SOCIETY

X00 Culture - theory, Research

X01 People and their expressions-
religion-rituals-religious and ritualistic
pilgrimage

X02 Local Festivals, stories and folklore

X03 Handicrafts and utilities, traditional
systems of knowledge and Practices

X04 Local Heritage Sites -
Historical/religious/community

X10 Indigenous People - India and other
countries

X11 Social/political system

X12 Tribes and Development

X14 Human Rights of Tribes

X15 Autonomy and self-rule Movements

X20 Society and Indian Society

X20a Acts, Bills, ordinances

(General)

X21 Development - India's
development, including social
movements

X22 human rights (General)

X22a Right to Information

X23 Ideology, socialism, communism,
nationalism

X24 colonialism

X30 Gender and Feminist Theory

X31 Status of Women (General)

X32 Women and Law, Violence against
Women -analytical

X33 Women's Work/Women

Workers

X34 Women and Development

(schemes, national commission on
women etc)

X35 Women's Movement and
Organisation (main focus on India)

X40 Children

X41 Child Rights

X42 Child Labour (non-tourism)

X60 History/Indian History

Z MISCELLANEOUS

Z00 Statistics (General)

Z10 NGOs

Z80 Cartoons

Z90 Miscellaneous



EQUATIONS (Equitable Tourism Options)

*seeks to situate the tourism critique
within the overall development debate.*

*(Our activities include documentation,
publications, research and
supporting individuals and groups
involved in concerted action on tourism issues.*